

THE TIMES

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10P
EVERY
SUMMER
MONDAY



EXCLUSIVE: TODAY
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AND RELIGION**
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before this book is published'*
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10P
EVERY
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MONDAY

Prince gave up on Church years ago, Runcie says

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION
CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales is disenchanted with the Church of England and "gave up" on it more than a decade ago, according to the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Runcie.

The Prince's views on the Church were inconsistent and he did not take it very seriously, Lord Runcie told his biographer Humphrey Carpenter. "It would help if he loved the Church of England a bit more."

The biography, which is being serialised in *The Times*, reveals that Lord Runcie considered the Prince to have entered an arranged marriage about which he was seriously depressed, and that he knew about the Prince's relationship with Camilla Parker-Bowles long before it became public knowledge. He tried to help the Princess when things went wrong — although he agreed that she was an actress, a schemer and very competitive.

But it is the remarks about the Prince's disaffection with the Church of England that will prove most controversial. For years, church leaders have privately questioned the religious allegiance of the man who is destined to become its supreme governor, and Lord Runcie's taped interviews with Mr Carpenter reinforce what many have long suspected. He thought the Prince was more interested in a "Laurens van der Post spirituality" and said that when it came to improving the state of the country, he did not take the Church seriously.



It would quite help if he loved the Church of England a bit more. That's one of the things I found disappointing — that he was so disenchanted with it?

Questioned by Mr Carpenter on how he perceived the Prince's attachment to the Church, Lord Runcie said: "That's one of the things that I found so disappointing — that he was so disenchanted with it. But he doesn't have a consistent view."

"He would go in with the *Spectator* gang on the lovely language of the Prayer Book, but then he would say, 'Instead of interfering with politics, the Church should be creating centres of healing in the inner cities — ought to be bringing together the spiritual, the intellectual and the architectural'... I think he'd given up on the Church of England before I arrived."

The Archbishop's words will make bleak reading for those who support the retention of an established church — especially in the light of the Queen's decision to consider disestablishment among other reforms of the monarchy, and of the Prince's televised admission that he would prefer to be the "defender of faith" than of the Protestant faith.

Speaking for the Church last night, the Rev Eric Shegog said: "Prince Charles is a communicant member of the Church of England and worships regularly in Anglican churches." But the Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, said: "It has been a general feeling for some time that the Prince of Wales is more interested in New Age-type spiritualities than Christianity. His disenchantment with the Church and his interest in Laurens van der Post is not a surprise."

Mr Austin said he did not think it would damage the Prince's chances of becoming supreme governor. "It is probably many years before he will become king, by which time public opinion may well have totally changed and he will be accepted both as Supreme Governor, and as one who is married to Queen Camilla."

Lord Runcie's compelling interview on the Royal Family also dealt with the Prince's marriage. Before conducting the wedding at St Paul's Cathedral in July 1981, the

Archbishop told a press conference that he had been impressed by the seriousness with which the couple had approached the matter as loyal Christians. But the biography discloses that when they went to Lambeth Palace for the first time, the Archbishop's chaplain, Richard Chartres — now Bishop of London — said to him: "He's seriously depressed. You can tell from his voice." Lord Runcie said: "We thought it was an arranged marriage, but my own view was, 'They're a nice couple, and she'll grow into it.'"

When the marriage started to go wrong and the Princess was unhappy, the Prince invited the Archbishop to lunch and asked him to help her — "he thought she needed a bit of instruction". But Lord Runcie continued: "I quickly saw she needed some encouragement."

The Archbishop said that he was regarded as being associated with the Princess's "camp" because of his friendship with her, her brother and her mother. He also knew the Princess's grandmother, Lady Fermoy, who was "totally and wholly a Charles person". Lady Fermoy was distressed about the Princess's behaviour and regarded her as an actress and a schemer — "all of which is true of course."

Asked about the Prince's relationship with Mrs Parker-Bowles, Lord Runcie said: "I knew about that. That was what worried Ruth Fermoy — about his needing a woman to love and be cared for by. And also that Diana would never be under control until she fell in love with someone."

Serialisation, pages 16, 17

'They just picked him off the street and killed him'



Connie Casey demonstrates how one of the attackers throttled her boyfriend

Holiday murderer was like a robot

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

THE distraught girlfriend of a British tourist beaten to death by two men near Bondi Beach in Sydney, said last night that one of his attackers behaved like a robot.

"His eyes were glazed and he was robotic," Connie Casey told a press conference here, the day after Brian Hagland, 28, died from head injuries. "It looked like he didn't even see Brian — he just needed something to take his anger out on," Ms Casey said. "They just picked him off the street and killed him."

Ms Casey, 25, broke down several times as she recounted the last minutes of her boyfriend's life.

The London couple had been on a working holiday in Australia for six months and were returning home from a farewell party early on Saturday. Ms Casey had left her job at the Australian Trade Commission and been given a bunch of flowers by colleagues. Mr Hagland was holding the flowers in one hand and his girlfriend's hand in the other as they came face to face with their attackers.

"We'd just got off the bus and walked around the corner and these men were coming towards us," she recalled. "I just knew by the look in this man's eyes that he was dangerous and he was going to do something."

"I said to Brian: 'Don't say anything to him.' He said: 'I'm not going to do anything,' and this man just squared up to him and said: 'Come on, let's have it.'"

Ms Casey said the attacker's accomplice stood back while Mr Hagland was punched and kicked. Ms Casey, who tried in vain to protect her

Continued on page 2, col 6

Gang of teenagers beats boy to death

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A TEENAGER was beaten to death after being chased through a housing estate by about 20 youths and girls after a night of unrest involving rival gangs.

Scott Ferguson, 16, had been visiting relatives in Paisley, near Glasgow, when he was confronted by the mob and chased through several streets. He was then attacked only a few hundred yards from his home.

Strathclyde Police said between 15 and 20 youngsters, aged between 17 and 20, were involved in the beating. A spokeswoman said a gun was fired during the incident on Saturday night but nobody was injured by the shot and the weapon was later recovered by police. She said Scott

was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley, where he died.

The killing came on a night of tension in the area, which is close to Ferguslie Park, the scene of several drug-related attacks.

Detective Chief Inspector Ronald Beattie, heading the murder hunt, said: "This was a particularly vicious attack on a 16-year-old boy and I would appeal to anyone with any information to contact police."

Officers carried out door-to-door inquiries yesterday as forensic experts combed the area for clues.

Anyone with information or who was in the area at the time was asked to telephone police on 0141-532 5900.

Blair heads for clash with TUC on no-strike package

By PHILIP BASSETT AND JILL SHERMAN

RADICAL plans to prevent a Labour government being derailed by a wave of public sector pay strikes are to be put forward by the Labour leadership tomorrow in a move that threatens a confrontation between Tony Blair and the unions.

Union leaders gathered in Blackpool yesterday on the eve of the TUC conference dismissed the idea of compulsory binding arbitration in pay disputes, one idea likely to be floated in a speech by David Blunkett, the Shadow Employment Secretary.

Labour leaders are planning to consult employers and unions over the coming months on ways of resolving public sector pay disputes, the

issue on which the last Labour government lost office in 1979. Although union leaders last night cautiously welcomed the principle of action to avoid strikes, they dismissed compulsory arbitration which many see as a back door way of banning strikes.

Labour sources confirmed that the party will advance a number of proposals for consideration, including the use of compulsory binding arbitration, as well as increasing the role of the official conciliation service Acas and the possible creation of more review bodies to fix pay in line with those operating for teachers, nurses, the armed forces and others.

Speaking on Sky TV, Mr

Blunkett said it was important to try to remove trade union and industrial relations issues from the political battleground, and to modernise Labour's approach to them. "Let's look to the future at the kind of relationship and the kind of labour markets we are dealing with, rather than the factory-gate megaphones of 20 years ago."

Mr Blair will address a private dinner of the TUC's governing general council tomorrow, and Mr Blunkett's speech will come as postal workers' leaders meet to decide on more strikes and a day ahead of the next round of strikes by conductors in some regional rail companies on

Continued on page 2, col 3

Moves to ban media cash for witnesses

By FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CHEQUE-BOOK journalism and the payment of huge sums by the media to witnesses in trials would be outlawed under draft proposals expected next month. A consultation paper from the Lord Chancellor's Department will recommend a change in the law making it a criminal offence to "buy up" someone who is, or is likely to be, a trial witness.

The move — which signals ministers' lack of faith in newspapers' attempts at self-regulation — comes in the wake of the Rosemary West murder trial last year.

But legislation would be strongly opposed by the newspaper industry and by the Press Complaints Commission, which favours instead a toughening of the industry's voluntary code of practice.

The draft government proposals are expected to canvass at least two options: a widening of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 to prohibit payments to witnesses in pending trials, or the making of payments to witnesses a specific criminal offence.

The industry's code of practice forbids payments to criminals or witnesses in current criminal proceedings except where material ought to be published in the public interest. During the West trial,

several witnesses admitted they had received substantial offers from newspapers. Afterwards both Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and the Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyall QC, ordered investigations into the payments.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has already made clear, however, that he wants a new protocol to toughen and clarify the code. Guy Black, director of the Press Complaints Commission, said: "Problems over payments to witnesses do not arise very often — there were, in fact, no complaints over the West trial. In our

Continued on page 2, column 6



"Anything you say won't be taken down and sold to a paper"



**Daily guide
to the mysteries
of ancient China**
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Managers to go
Deutsche Bank, the owner of Morgan Grenfell, is to seek the resignation of five or more senior managers Page 48

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Female editor is accused of turning radio favourite into a 'badly written load of feminist tripe'

Archers veteran decries an Ambridge too far-fetched



Smethurst: claims series has been hijacked by leftwingers

By ROBIN YOUNG

A FORMER editor of the world's longest-running radio series, *The Archers*, set the airwaves alight yesterday when he let fly at the woman who is now doing his old job.

William Smethurst, who edited the programme for 11 years to 1986, accused his successor, Vanessa Whitburn, of having turned the BBC's erstwhile "everyday story of country folk" into "a badly written load of feminist tripe".

Mr Smethurst claimed that *The Archers* "has been hijacked by politically correct leftwingers". He stated Ms Whitburn for introducing racist thugs, drug-dealing teenagers, a female vicar and a homosexual publican into Ambridge life. "You don't get neo-Nazi thugs throwing acid at Hindu lawyers in the countryside," he said. "These things just don't happen."

There, sadly, Mr Smethurst errs.

The BBC emphasised yesterday that this particular *Archers* storyline had been based on careful research among files supplied by the Commission for Racial Equality showing the incidence of racist attacks in various counties of England.

Mr Smethurst, though, was irreconcilable. "The *Archers* is no longer a typical story of English village life," he fumed. "I think that is dreadful. If Vanessa wants to be involved in this sort of clumsy propaganda, she should apply for a job on *Eastenders*."

Mr Smethurst, who left *The Archers* and the BBC in 1986 for a short stay at ITV's ill-fated *Crossroads* motel, added: "Not only are Vanessa and her feminist friends forever forcing left-wing issues down our throats, but the scripts are very poorly written. So when Ambridge is about to get a woman vicar, all the clever, intelligent villagers — mainly of course, the women — are in favour, while any

men who disapprove are made to look stupid. It's clumsy, left-wing propaganda and, to my mind, an awful load of tripe."

Mr Smethurst, now working as a novelist and director of a television production company, is publishing a book this week entitled *The Archers: The True Story* (Michael O'Mara: £16.99).

It is timed to appear just six days before Ms Whitburn's own book, *The Archers: The Official Inside Story* (Virgin Books: £14.99). Ms Whitburn's account is intended to mark *The Archers* 45th anniversary and to counter some of the more frequent criticisms of her custodianship of rural England's fictional heartland.

In his book Mr Smethurst reveals that he first clashed with Ms Whitburn, said to be nicknamed "She Wolf" by members of the cast, when she became an assistant producer at Pebble Mill. He once hung a string of garlic over the inter-communicating doors of their

offices to keep her away. Mr Smethurst's book says that in his day *The Archers* administration was frequently accused of being racist because there were no black or Asian characters. He claims that the programme management replied to one complainant saying: "We already have a coloured resident in Ambridge. We are delighted to find that our character is so well-integrated that you did not guess their ethnic origin. We thought we had given the game away when Colonel Danby was discovered cooking a curry."

Mr Smethurst concludes: "The programme is changing with the times, the producers will say, and indeed it is pointless to complain about radical feminism and neo-Nazis in Ambridge. If the storylines had the ability to tell a tale of the English countryside, they would be doing so. Rather blame the people who hired them." The BBC's official spokesman for *The Archers* said: "The *Archers* is a

drama and all dramas have both critics and fans. William is entitled to his views, but I don't think the programme's four million regular listeners each week would agree with him."

The spokesman added: "Vanessa Whitburn is a much-criticised and controversial editor, but she is a very successful one. Our research and listening figures show that listeners enjoy buoyant, controversial storylines. *The Archers* has always been controversial, and has only survived so long by keeping up to date. Vanessa is really following in an *Archers* tradition, though the bulk of the storylines used in a year are still agricultural ones. They may not be the issues that make headlines, but they are always there."

Ms Whitburn was not available for comment. She is keeping her powder dry until she has her own book to publicise.



Whitburn: introduced racist thugs and drug dealers

Radio, page 46

Blair's wife joins political battle for the home front

Cherie Booth knits matching pattern of domestic harmony

By CAROL MIDGLEY

WIFELY attempts to present a homely image of life with party leaders continued yesterday with the revelation that Tony Blair is good at polishing shoes and has a nodding acquaintance with the washing machine. He also puts up with his sons doing impressions of Rory Bremner mimicking him.

A much-travelled edition of the magazine *Prima*, with Cherie Booth as guest editor, is reaching the news-stands after Norma Major grabbed the headlines with an interview revealing that she grates and freezes state buns of cheese and uses teabags more than once.

Ms Booth, 42, a barrister, reveals herself as a keen knitter and admits that she made the decision for the magazine to include matching mother-and-daughter sweater patterns which she and her daughter, Kathryn, 8, "will wear again and again". There is also a four-page feature entitled: "Yes, we can all wear trousers". Mr Blair has clothes bought for him by his wife and mother-in-law.

Knowledge of the impending

edition of *Prima* has been suggested as one motive for Mrs Major stepping into the limelight. She gave an interview to the *Daily Mail* magazine *Weekend*, which will be followed by a BBC fly-on-the-wall documentary, *Norma Major Behind Closed Doors*, to be broadcast later this month.

Lindsay Nicholson, editor of *Prima*, insisted that Ms Booth's project had been conceived months ago. She said: "The first time we met to talk about it was in February. It was my idea to have a guest editor and Cherie was very keen to do it."

She added: "The first time I met Cherie she produced a complete contents list in which she had covered the whole magazine. She was fascinated by the whole thing and came into our offices many times. Over the past nine months, we have been faxing and bickering proofs round to her for her to approve."

Touching on social issues apparently close to her husband's heart, Ms Booth reports on employees' legal rights, the "magnificent" job being done by carers up and down

the country, and the plight of domestic violence victims.

Interviewed by eight readers over tea at the Ritz hotel, she said of her husband: "He's very good at polishing the shoes and has been known to cook a meal — if I am late in, he cooks. I wouldn't say he is intimate with our washing machine, but he knows where it is."

Of working mothers: "I feel strongly about the need to help mothers. As a working father, Tony knows about these things. He is very good — he comes to school assemblies and sports days. Parliament tends to vote at 7pm and 10pm so he tries to get home in between, but it doesn't always work out." He also drops his son Euan, 12, at the Tube station each morning.

Ms Booth, who has worked for 20 years, included articles on after-school clubs for children with working mothers, and six family meals that can be rustled up in 30 minutes. The Blair household is now apparently looking forward to stuffed peppers, pork and sage burgers, cod in beer batter, mush-

room soufflé omelette, leek and bacon rosti and Italian-style chicken.

She adds: "Sometimes I think I'm just juggling all the balls in the air and I'm amazed that they don't all fall down at once. I get a lot of support from my family."

"My mum comes up at weekends and my sister, Lyndsey, lives two minutes away. We help each other out as she has children and works too. I am lucky because I earn a decent income and I can afford a live-in nanny from Monday to Friday."

In a moment of disloyalty Ms Booth confessed that Euan and Nicky, ten, like to take the mickey out of their father by doing impressions of Rory Bremner mimicking him. But she stressed that, unlike Mrs Major, she would have no hesitation in moving to Downing Street if Labour wins the election.

"Wherever Tony goes, we are going to," Ms Booth said. "The most important thing is to keep the family together. We want to keep life as normal as possible."



Cherie Booth photographed for *Prima*: beaten to news-stands by Norma Major interview

New men will grace finishing school

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A SCHOOL where young women learn to be ladies will have an unusual challenge when it opens its doors to its first live-in males this term. The young men also will be taught cookery, dressmaking, cake decoration and childcare.

Harrow House, believed to be Britain's last residential finishing school, was founded in 1907 to help young ladies to prepare themselves for the rigours of marriage and of running a home and staff.

Finishing schools in the decades up to the Sixties became a useful stepping stone between school, the Season, and the nuptial bed. Well-bred girls were polished in the essential graces and taught the elements of wifecraft such as invisible mending, etiquette, how to lay a table, how to curtsy and hold polite conversation on social occasions. Most were expected to marry money. But as the decades passed the schools were forced to widen their skills.

Harrow House, at Eastbourne, has been threatened with closure but Janet Jenion, the principal, hopes that the handful of young men roaming the previously all-female corridors when term starts in



The 1920s kitchen of the Eastbourne College of Food and Fashion, later renamed Harrow House

HARROW HOUSE

a fortnight will give it a new lease of life. So many men have rung in to apply to the £3,000-a-term school that they may have to turn some applicants down.

The school has brought itself into the Nineties with the very latest equipment and vocational qualifications. "It may still be like a finishing school but it's a very modern one, aimed at finishing you off in the sense of totalling improving your image and employability. We teach practical subjects but we also teach about business and presentation skills," Mrs Jenion said.

She foresees no problems with the new male pupils. "It's natural to have a mix of the sexes. It will be healthy competition for the girls, particularly on the culinary side, and good for them socially too. I think boys can only be good

for the school and its future." Courses at the school, formerly known as the Eastbourne College of Food and Fashion, last between ten weeks and two years. The most popular is a professional chef's course. Others include fashion and design.

In this technology obsessed age, the school's appeal to men is exactly the same. Mrs Jenion insists, as to women: "There are a lot of people who are much more suited to doing practical things rather than gaining academic qualifications. Men want to know how to cook marvellously or wear great clothes just as much as women these days." She adds, however: "I think that the boys will have to be fairly brave to set foot in a place which has been traditionally all female for so long."

Skydiver survives 6,000ft plummet

AN EXPERIENCED skydiver who fell hundreds of feet when his two parachutes became entangled was recovering in hospital from back injuries yesterday.

Rob Lock, a computer operator from Barnstaple, Devon, had jumped out of a Cessna light aircraft at 6,000ft when his main parachute failed to open. He released it and activated his emergency parachute, only to see it become entangled with the one dropping to earth. Police rushed to the scene after being told by a witness that someone had jumped from the aircraft in an apparent suicide bid.

Mr Lock was able to control the tangled parachutes sufficiently to slow his descent, but hurt his back on landing. He was taken to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, where his condition was described as stable last night.

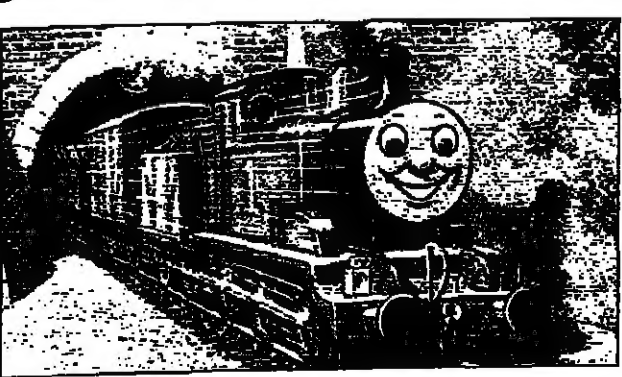
Steve Peck, owner of the Eaglescot Parachute Centre at Umberleigh, described what happened as "a freak occurrence". To say he wasn't lucky would be absurd, but to say he was lucky would be to sensationalise it. He said that Mr Lock was an experienced skydiver who had made 90 to 100 jumps in the past 18 months.

Thomas gets up steam on the City line

By ROBIN YOUNG

THOMAS the Tank Engine, the children's favourite locomotive, is in the marshalling yard, ready to join the recently privatised rail companies on the Stock Exchange.

Britt Allcroft and her husband, Angus Wright, spotted the potential of Thomas shunting his way through the Rev Wilbert Awdry's books and bought the worldwide television, film and merchandising rights in the 1980s. Mr Awdry, whose stories began as entertainment for his son, Christopher, when he had measles, urged children not to watch the television ver-



sion, but The Britt Allcroft Group has succeeded in filming more than 100 stories, broadcast in 43 countries.

In the year to June 30, the company made a pre-tax

profit of £2 million on turnover of £11.5 million. Now it is seeking a full stock market listing to raise £5 million for further international expansion and to develop addition-

al characters". Ms Allcroft and Mr Wright intend to retain their combined stake of just under half the shares, which will be worth some £12 million after flotation. Other shareholders include venture capital firms and Ringo Starr, who acquired an 8 per cent share when supplying voiceovers.

There is unlikely to be an opportunity for the public to subscribe for Thomas's stock market debut. The shares will probably be placed with institutional investors before the end of the year and will only be available to the public when dealings open on the Stock Exchange.

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35-year-old graduate gives £1m to Cambridge

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A BRITISH businessman based in California, who was a Cambridge undergraduate only 14 years ago, has pledged £1 million to his old university to help to establish its mathematics department as the world leader.

At the age of 35, Nick Corfield is the youngest of the select group of £1 million donors to British universities. His money will go into a Centre for Mathematical Studies, which will bring Cambridge's mathematicians together for the first time.

Mr Corfield gained his mathematics degree in 1982 and went to Columbia University, New York, with the aim of pursuing an academic career. But before he had completed his PhD he decided to go into business developing computer software.

His most successful product, FrameMaker, became a market leader in technical publishing. Last year the company he founded a decade ago was sold for \$500 million. Mr Corfield's exact share of the profit is not known, but he said: "I no longer have to worry about paying the rent. You could safely say I am a multimillionaire."

The plan for a donation grew out of a lunch with Professor Peter Goddard, Master of St John's, and once Mr Corfield's director of studies. Mr Corfield said: "I was very impressed by the plans for the new centre and was in a position to help. If anyone doubts the value of mathematics, I hope that seeing a businessman part with hard-earned dollars will convince them."

"You are not aware of it as a student, but having the perspective now from the West Coast of America, the concentration of mathematicians in Cambridge is the biggest and

best in the world. I think that Britain can be very proud of that, but one of the failings of the British is that they are too modest and don't like to blow their own trumpets."

The first stage of the £25 million centre is due to open in 2000. Mr Corfield is to join further fund-raising efforts for the project. He said: "Cambridge and Oxford are wonderful brand names, recognised all over the world, but they have never pushed themselves as much as the top American universities."

Professor Goddard, one of Cambridge's leading mathematicians, said: "Nick's contribution is the most tremendous boost to the project, not just for its size but for the message it sends out. As someone who has been a hugely successful product of the system, nobody could be a better example to other potential donors."

"Nick was always quite a distinctive and original thinker, with a certain degree of justifiable self-confidence. One never knows who is going to be successful at what, but if you had asked me to make a shortlist of people who might make their mark, he would probably have been on it."

Mr Corfield is now working on new products and indulging a passion for mountaineering. He was a member of the American expedition to Everest which rescued several climbers in May. "We saw some pretty gruesome cases of frostbite but, apart from that, I had a great time and will certainly be going back. I know now that it is physically well within my capacity to reach the top."

He will also be making occasional visits to Cambridge, but has promised not to meddle in the project.



The tuck shop at Windsor Clive School in Cardiff. Most children now eat at least once piece of fruit a day

Tuck shops bear fruit in healthy eating scheme

By JOHN O'LEARY

BILLY BUNTER would have been horrified: healthy tuck shops — surely a contradiction in terms — selling only fruit.

Primary schoolchildren in Wales, where the Field Fresh shops have been piloted, seem to like the idea. Now the promoters hope to have 100 running in England by the end of the year.

The first two English shops will open this week at schools in Oxfordshire. The campaign will be launched by the television cook Rustie Lee. Instead of crisps and sweets, they will be selling apples and oranges at 10p and kiwifruit at 15p.

Sue Mckerlich, head teacher of the Windsor Clive Infants School, in Cardiff, where the scheme has operated for more than a year, said: "The vast majority of our children are now eating at least one piece of fruit a day, which is very important from the point of view of health when the majority of parents are on income support."

Pupils aged five to seven run the shop under teacher supervision, teaching them to



Billy Bunter: his diet was bigger on buns

handle money. "We make no money because the whole purpose is to introduce good eating habits at a young age and help to convey the idea to the parents," Mrs Mckerlich said.

The scheme was established by the Francis Nicholls Group, a wholesaler supplying independent grocers. Chris Bould, the company spokesman, said: "In some areas kids are not aware of fruit because they never get any at home. This kind of approach might not work in secondary schools, where habits are more entrenched, but most primary schools do not have conventional tuck shops."

Fruitarians mourn man who followed the diet of Eden

FRUITARIANS are mourning Wilfred Crone, the 87-year-old who pioneered a diet that shuns the killing of plants. Crone was cremated at a ceremony for friends and followers last week after apparently committing suicide by throwing himself on a railway line.

With the drive that helped him to lead one of the rarest food cults in Britain, he had stayed active until his final days, tending the fig, apple and pear trees in his garden in Christchurch, Dorset. His body was found on the Bournemouth to Waterloo line near his home last month. An inquest is to be held.

Friends say he complained of aches and pains just before his death and feared that he would become a burden on others. He had written to a local newspaper supporting voluntary euthanasia.

It is four years since Mr Crone handed the mantle to a younger generation. In pamphlets produced over 15 years he championed a diet excluding cooking and the consumption of roots and leaves that could not be eaten

■ Wilfred Crone, who refused to eat anything that involved the death of a plant, has died at the age of 87. Adherents claim to feel fitter; nutritionists say they are mad. Stephen Farrell reports

without destroying the plant. Britain's climate allows most adherents to eat anything which is or contains the seed of a plant, including fruit, peppers, courgettes and cucumbers, nuts and sprouted seeds.

Mr Crone's propaganda was quasi-religious: he urged followers to "Eat life, not death" and claimed fruit as man's diet in Eden, quoting Genesis 1, 29: "Behold I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed: to you it shall be for meat."

Under his successor the emphasis has changed. Gone are the references to Eden in the brightly coloured pamphlets produced by

Susie Miller, founder and co-ordinator of the Exeter-based Fruitarian and Raw Energy Support and Help network. She prefers texts on the supposed health virtues of raw food, concentrating on enzymes, low cholesterol and the yield per acre of fruit trees.

Ms Miller, like Mr Crone, claims that cooking is unnatural and introduces toxins into the body. She also claims that fruitarianism takes the vegan ethos of compassionate living a step further "in that by eating just the fruits, you are not even killing the plant for your food".

But many food experts express deep concerns at such a limited diet. One nutritionist dismissed strict fruitarians as "barking mad",

and Amanda Ursell, a state-registered dietitian, gave warning that they risked deficiencies in iron, Vitamin B12 and essential fatty acids. "We throw up our hands in horror. With those who eat huge quantities of fruit there is an increased risk of diabetes from the strain of producing insulin to break down large quantities of fructose. You do find fruitarians who look reasonably healthy, but you often discover they have not been following the diet for very long and may therefore be living off reserves to their bodies."

Fruitarians dismiss such concerns. Karen Noble, 49, a shiatsu practitioner from Finchley, north London, lives mainly off fruit and eats up to 20 mangoes a day. "I do go orange in the mango season," she admits, "but I feel very good and very fit. It gives you a huge amount of energy and you age slowly."

"The thing about fruitarianism is that you are not murdering anything; you eat the fruit and you spit the seeds out. It is delicious and it happens to be saving the Earth as well."

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Propulsion Technology - Kamewa helped thrust the division forward. Their water jet units propel the Stena HSS ferries (above). Kamewa has also recently received an order from Financière to equip two high-speed car ferries, each with four unit installations. The largest yet supplied.

Automotive - One of the results of Cosworth's investment programme: a new Emissions and Drivability Centre at Northampton.

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هكذا من الأصل

DEAR MR TAXMAN

THE INLAND REVENUE ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT SELF ASSESSMENT

I FEEL LEFT OUT

Dear Taxman I feel neglected, all my friends get tax returns to fill in but you have never sent me one.

As I am now 32 years old is there something wrong with me? Ignored, COVENTRY.

TAXMAN SAYS Age has nothing to do with whether you get a tax return or not. We will send you a tax return if you are self-employed, a company director, or someone with more complex tax affairs. Most people don't get a tax return so you're certainly not alone. However, if you receive income that has not been taxed and you haven't been sent a tax return you must tell us. Call your Tax Office and talk to someone there if you are still worried. The telephone number is in the phone book under 'Inland Revenue'.

DO I NEED AN ACCOUNTANT?

Dear Taxman To date, I have always enjoyed handling my tax affairs personally. I find it a very stimulating and interesting pastime. Will I now be forced to use an accountant and give up one of my few interests in life? Bored, DYFED.

TAXMAN SAYS Not if you don't wish to. If you already deal with tax affairs yourself there is no reason to change. In fact, if you are organised and

keep proper records, the new system should make things easier. You may even find time for a more exciting hobby like collecting cheese labels.

AM I UP-TO-DATE?

Dear Taxman As soon as I buy clothes they immediately go out of style. I spend a fortune on an exotic holiday only to discover it was the place to go last year. I get rid of all my easy listening records, next day they are back in fashion. I am beginning to suspect that I may be just one of those people who is always behind the times. How can I be sure that I am up-to-date with my tax? Concerned, LEICESTER.

TAXMAN SAYS Simple. Have you filled in and sent off all the tax returns that you have received? Have you replied to any letters we have sent you? Have you paid all your tax bills? If the answer is 'yes' to all of these then don't worry, you're up-to-date. And if it's any help, white stilettos are due for a comeback.

NO MORE TAX

Dear Taxman Is Self Assessment just a cunning way out of wheeling more tax out of me?

Paranoid, BARNES.

TAXMAN SAYS No. Self Assessment is not a new tax and does not affect the amount of tax you pay. It is just a clearer and more straightforward system for working out and paying tax.

How big is it?

Dear Taxman How big is the new Self Assessment tax form? I have a bad back and the doctor says I can't do any heavy lifting. Worried, BRADFORD.

TAXMAN SAYS From next April most people will get a basic, slim-line, eight-page tax return, along with any extra pages we think you may need. (If, for example,

you are self-employed, there will be four extra pages to fill in.) You will get a full list of the supplementary pages available and if you think any apply to you, you'll have plenty of time to send off for them. Guidance notes to help you fill in your tax return and work out your own tax bill - if you want to - will be sent out with the forms.

Please send me more information about Self Assessment.

Please tick a box if you are: Self-employed ☐ Employed ☐ A Pensioner ☐ Seeking work ☐

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address

Postcode

Self Assessment

Self Assessment: a clearer tax system

PLEASE RETURN COUPON TO: SELF ASSESSMENT PO BOX 555 BRISTOL BS99 50J

Shopkeepers bank on keeping services of village visionary

Businesses in a small Irish community are thriving thanks to a woman who claims contact with the Virgin Mary. But not everyone is happy. Nicholas Watt reports

TRADERS and hoteliers in the village of Achill Sound, Co Mayo, have rallied to the support of a self-proclaimed visionary who is being investigated by the Roman Catholic Church.

More than 70 villagers attended a public meeting to fight to retain Christina Gallagher, who claims to receive messages from the Virgin Mary and to suffer stigmata. The shopkeepers who called the meeting, after some local people voiced opposition to Mrs Gallagher, are delighted that she attracts more than 10,000 pilgrims a year to Achill Sound.

Every weekend busloads of

returning to the house for Mass, which is held in an elaborately decorated chapel at the side of the building.

In his homily, which was broadcast to pilgrims outside the chapel, Father McGinitty told how Mrs Gallagher had cured numerous people. In one case a young boy, who was flown from New York "doubled up in pain" from rheumatoid arthritis, "took no medication from the day he came here".

Father McGinitty, who said that Mrs Gallagher could not read when she left school, gave a detailed account of her contacts with the Virgin Mary. "This infusion of knowledge strikes her like a light during Mass," he said. "She cannot express it, she doesn't know what it is until God allows her. Then the floodgates open, the knowledge pours forth and she uses words she wouldn't normally use."

Father McGinitty told the congregation that the most important part of Mrs Gallagher's work was her suffering "in soul, mind and heart". He added: "Christina is a victim's soul crushed. She is crushed for the saving of souls. That is the essential part of her mission."

He said that the authenticity of Mrs Gallagher's mission was shown by the work of an Irishman who smuggled her Matrix Medal into Middle Eastern countries. Mrs Gallagher claims that, in an apparition in 1988, the Virgin Mary asked her to strike a medal that showed Mary kneeling in front of the cross on one side and two hearts of Jesus and Mary weeping tears of blood on the other side. Father McGinitty said that each time Customs officials inspected the Irishman's bags they never touched the bag containing the Matrix Medal.

After Mass yesterday the



Pilgrims fill up with holy water outside Christina Gallagher's House of Prayer

pilgrims bought copies of Mrs Gallagher's biography, entitled *Out of the Estuary and onto the Cross*, from a small shop. The shop also sold video tapes of Mrs Gallagher and pictures of the Virgin Mary weeping blood. One elderly woman, who was in a neck brace and walked with sticks, had travelled from Scotland. She said she felt spiritually

uplifted and added: "Christina really changed my life and made me forget my aches and pains. Peace and quiet descended on the crowd when she appeared. You could have heard a pin drop."

Local shopkeepers say they welcome the influx of thousands of tourists a year to Achill Sound. Mary Gallagher, who is not related to

the visionary, runs a general store next to the village post office. She said: "Christina has been great for our community. Since this all started the crowds have been pouring in. We all hope that Christina will be able to stay."

At the public meeting, shopkeepers had pointed out that Mrs Gallagher had brought much-needed business to the area. "No amount of advertising could have brought that much business," another shopkeeper said. "If Christina gives peace, satisfaction and tranquillity, who am I to say she is wrong?" Other locals are less impressed. One family living close to the House of Prayer have complained about the crowds and Father John Fallon, the parish priest whose church is a few hundred yards away, is awaiting the outcome of the inquiry by the Right Rev Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam. He took action after Cardinal Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, gave warning against a "proliferation of alleged visions, apparitions and messages" with the approach of the new millennium.



Mrs Gallagher with her spiritual director, Father Gerard McGinitty, and one of the keepsakes sold at the shop

Police seize leaflets at meeting of Muslims

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE planned rally of 14,000 Muslim fundamentalists to declare an Islamic state in Britain flopped yesterday when 100 people turned up to listen to militant leaders.

Police confiscated hundreds of anti-Semitic leaflets handed out by supporters of Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad who gathered at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park after their "Rally for Revival" at the London Arena in Docklands was cancelled for security reasons. His ten-minute speech to 50 followers, calling for the worldwide liberation of Muslims, was drowned out by whistles blown by 15 gay rights campaigners. Sheikh Bakri, leader of the al-Muhajiroun movement, has reportedly urged all homosexuals to throw themselves from the Big Ben.

A further 50 people listened to a speech by the Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Masari. Police intervened to stop the distribution of leaflets entitled "Muslim vs Judaism", criticising Jews and Israel. A constable said: "We are seizing these sheets because they are an incitement to racial hatred."

The Sheikh said later: "Muslims have been living here for 60 years and have never broken any law. This Islamophobia is a sign of the bankruptcy of Western ideology."

Catherine Moseley, whose boyfriend Paul Wells was kidnapped in Kashmir in 1995 with Keith Mangan and other Westerners, asked the Muslims to help secure his release.

Leading article, page 21

Actor Irons has second car accident in a week

BY TIM JONES

THE actor Jeremy Irons was yesterday recovering from his second car crash within a week. Police investigating the latest accident believe that Mr Irons, 46, escaped severe injuries because he was at the wheel of a left-hand-drive vehicle, which saved him from the full impact of the head-on collision.

The accident, which occurred on Saturday, seriously injured the driver of the other car, Richard Belgrave, 80, who was given an emergency operation. His wife, Doris, 83, suffered shock and minor injuries and both were detained at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

The accident happened in the village of Tetworth, Oxfordshire, a few miles from Watlington, where Mr Irons lives with his wife, Siân, and their two sons. Although badly shocked, Mr Irons, the only occupant of the four-wheel-drive vehicle he was driving, stayed at the scene for 45 minutes as fire crews cut Mr Belgrave free from his car.

The actor was then driven by his wife to Stoke Mandeville Hospital, near Aylesbury, where he was treated for minor injuries. Acting Sergeant Frank Yabsey, of Thames Valley Police, said: "Mr Irons was very shocked indeed, but stayed on the scene because he wanted to make sure the elderly gentleman was released."

Last week Mr Irons and his two sons had a crash on the M4 in which the family horsebox turned over.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Engineers urged to publicise air errors

Airline engineers are being urged to make public any examples of faulty maintenance on passenger aircraft amid growing concern over the number of near disasters caused by mistakes in the hangar. The Royal Aeronautical Society plans to publish the ten most serious incidents reported to them each month in its magazine *Aerospace*. "It is basic mistakes, the first items taught in training, which often cause the problems," the society said. The Civil Aviation Authority is already investigating maintenance procedures after a stinging attack by air accident investigators.

HMSO sale hitch

The privatisation of the Stationery Office has run into difficulties, apparently over pension arrangements for staff transferring to the new company. Ministers are also concerned about publicity linking the proposed buyer, Electra Fleming, with the Tory party. Talks on the sale are continuing.

Lottery jobs

The National Lottery will create or protect more than 13,000 jobs in five years, Jeremy Peat, chief economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland, believes. Grants will boost the building trade by £1.3 billion a year, almost half of that going to Scotland, Wales and London. Winning numbers, page 24.

Dole 'deters theft'

Rising unemployment has reduced theft in the workplace as new research shows that workers are too scared of losing their jobs to risk pilfering. The study, from a team funded by the Government's Economic and Social Research Council, is part of a programme concerning the social aspects of crime.

Well policed

Ministry of Defence Police, which is facing 1,500 job losses over the next few years, has been boosted in its campaign against the cuts by a public opinion survey praising the force for its professionalism. The survey, based on 5,500 questionnaires, revealed a satisfaction rate of more than 90 per cent.

Roman canals

The Northern Archaeology Group says it has evidence that the Romans built a network of inland waterways in Britain. Near Sedgfield, Co Durham, for instance, they are said to have enhanced a series of natural lakes along the River Skerne to form a link between the Tees and Wear.

INNOVATORS IN HISTORY NO. 10

John BRADLEY

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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



RUNCIE, ROYALTY & RELIGION

Part 3
Life with Lindy
PLUS: The
Lindy Parva column

STYLE
What the best
dressed legs
are wearing
PLUS:
Win a mobile
office worth
£3,000 in
Interface

FILMS
Sandra
Bullock
in John
Grisham's
A Time to Kill
PLUS:
The best jobs
in our 36-page
Appointments
section

POP
David Sinclair meets...
PLUS:
The Valerie George interview



24-PAGE FASHION SUPPLEMENT

Your guide to the best of autumn, in the Magazine
PLUS:
Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers
and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERYDAY THIS WEEK COLLECT TOKENS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF FIVE CLASSIC SPORTS CARS

Computer system takes plod out of police work

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

A COMPUTER system that could solve crimes and tell detectives who they should arrest or question will be put on trial by four police forces this autumn.

Known as Crimenet, the system matches film from closed-circuit television cameras at the scenes of crime with police mugshots and material gathered by criminal intelligence. The evaluation will be based on film taken of armed robberies at banks and building societies.

The system could eventually have a far wider use in streets and city centres as local authorities and retailers increasingly introduce the cameras in shopping malls, car parks and public transport systems. Comparisons made by the computer could also be accepted in court similar to fingerprint matches.

The system was developed by the Police Foundation, a charity and police think-tank, working with British Aerospace and the two main suppliers of security cameras to financial institutions. Serious

crime squads and intelligence offices in at least four forces will test the system, which has aroused extensive interest among chief constables.

Dr Barrie Irving, director of the foundation, said the system was developed to make use of the vast amount of film taken at crime scenes but which was often wasted. Police were often faced with the time-consuming task of trying to match the images on the film with thousands of mugshots.

Instead, Crimenet takes the pictures from the closed-circuit television and compares them with a databank of convicted or suspected criminals. The criminals' features are turned into a geometric computer code and stored in an archive. Pictures from the scene are also turned into code and the computer sifts the two sets of details for a match.

The software holds individual details, such as the way in which criminals work, types of disguise, weapons used and unusual features such as jewellery collected by police from previous crimes by the suspect. The computer also compares these with evidence from the scene of crime.

Armed criminals sometimes use disguises, but Dr Irving said the system would cope with that. Measurements such as height and weight could also be computed from the crime videos and matched. Crimenet could also be used to identify whether the same robber or fraudster had been involved in a string of offences by comparing film from a series of incidents.

Dr Irving said Crimenet could be invaluable both in identifying likely suspects and in eliminating some suspects. He said: "The images may be good enough to provide evidence in court or give local investigators a head start. At the moment a great deal of time and effort will be spent on suspects who are not the right people."

Schools to be given guide on security

THE Government is today to publish a guide urging schools to review their safety and consider measures such as personal attack alarms, closed-circuit television cameras and guards. There is likely to be argument about how to pay for the measures.

Teachers' leaders and parents' representatives have called for cash now for security measures. Robin Squire, the Education Minister, is expected to repeat the Government's commitment to "substantial additional funding" but not until April. Schools would then bid for cash distributed to local education authorities.

Girl, 13, saves two from arson attack

A GIRL aged 13 led her younger brother and sister to safety after petrol was poured over the front door and set alight early yesterday.

Carly Wood was woken at 2.30am when a brick was thrown through the window of the house in Swindon, Wiltshire, while her parents were out. She was confronted in the hallway by thick smoke and flames. She woke her sister Samantha, 8, and brother Arman, 7, and shut them in the bathroom with instructions not to open the door. Her shouts were heard by a neighbour, who helped to lift the children out of a window.

Their parents, Ian and Jennifer, who were both working at a nightclub, paid tribute yesterday to Carly's bravery

and presence of mind. Mr Woods, 37, said: "We're very proud of Carly. She did really well. She didn't panic at all." Inspector Paul Eastham said: "She behaved in a very mature and responsible way in what was a potentially very dangerous situation."

Mr Eastham added: "It is a very worrying incident but we believe that it may be linked to a dispute between an adult member of the household and others. This was a very serious incident which had horrendous potential." He said that child protection officers and social services staff would be investigating why the three children were alone at the time of the arson attack. "We would stress though that this young girl acted very sensibly."

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Author wrote of his acute distaste for anti-Jewish sentiments and Hitler's speeches

Diaries shed new light on Beckett's hatred of Nazis

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

PREVIOUSLY unseen diaries written by Samuel Beckett during his stay in prewar Germany reveal his revulsion for Hitler, compassion for the Jews and a feverish enthusiasm for the visual arts that informed his stagework.

The diaries, which will revise previous studies of the obsessively private Irish author of classics such as *Waiting for Godot* and *Endgame*, are to be published within a scholarly biography by Professor James Knowlson. He said yesterday: "These diaries are obviously a discovery of major importance. It astonished me when I got them. I felt very excited and daunted. They were offered to him exclusively by Beckett's nephew, Edward, a professional flautist."

Professor Knowlson, a leading Beckett authority, was a friend of the author for 20 years, from 1970 until his death in 1989 at the age of 83. Beckett authorised him to be his official biographer, on the condition that the book was not published during his lifetime. "It will give you more freedom," Beckett said.

The diaries, within large-format 560 folios, are tightly written and cover the years 1936 and 1937. Beckett wrote in English and German, with some French, recording conversations, for example, in their original language.

"They reveal an awful lot of his personality. They let me get into his mind in a unique way that you can't get with his letters," Professor Knowlson said. "They are very much Beckett. They are meditative, thoughtful — about his situa-



The young Beckett, left, mocked the "interminable harangues" of Hitler, Goebbels and Goering



tion and himself — and analytical. They are also extremely learned and intellectual. People haven't realised how much of a scholar he remained after he left his lectureship in 1931."

An earlier biography, he said, concluded that Beckett was unconcerned about what was happening in Germany at that time, although he was

later to join the Resistance. But the diaries show the beginnings of his opposition to Nazism and his evolving political attitude.

Beckett described his irritation at Hitler's speeches and listened to anti-Jewish sentiments "with acute distaste". His writings reveal an amused disdain for what he mocked as "the interminable

harangues" of Hitler, Goering and Goebbels.

For example, he found it comical to see how, during a radio broadcast of a Hitler speech, one by one the people listening in his hotel drifted off to bed. Later he described a couple he had met in Berlin as "appalling Nazi". There are numerous entries in which he moaned about those who preached the National Socialist gospel; the repeated Heil Hitler greetings irritated him.

Beckett was scribbling several pages each day, often taking notes as he visited galleries, his main reason for going to Hamburg, Berlin and Munich. He made detailed observations of specific paintings and became obsessed by Giorgione's self-portrait, repeatedly returning to see it.

Professor Knowlson said that the writings reflected the extent of Beckett's scholarly knowledge of painting. His social circle in Germany included numerous contemporary painters, many of them Jewish. His love of art was to exude through his dramatic images: "Beckett's stage images owe a tremendous amount to the Old Masters."

He pointed to Antonello da Messina's *Virgin of the Annunciation* in the Alte Pinakothek in Munich, about which Beckett wrote: "Head and shoulders. Superb. With the aghast look, consternated skivvy." Professor Knowlson likened the figure to the character of May, the pacing figure in Beckett's *Footfalls*, in which the author directed Billie Whitelaw.

□ *Damned To Fame: The Life Of Samuel Beckett*, will be published by Bloomsbury on September 19.



Professor Knowlson with extracts from Beckett's German diaries

NEWS IN BRIEF

Choir head killed in bridge fall

Christopher Barnett, 37, founder of Wenham Boys' Choir, is thought to have killed himself by jumping off the 150ft Orwell Bridge near Ipswich. His body was found on mudflats near by. The choir, made up of boys from north Suffolk, has won many international awards. Mr Barnett married with two children.

Visitor dies in fire

A woman has died in a fire at a house in Handsworth, Birmingham, less than 24 hours after arriving from America for a family reunion. Joyce Williams, who was in her 60s, was found unconscious in an upstairs bedroom.

Rock of ages

A lightning conductor on the steeple at Golcar, near Huddersfield, picks up Radio 1 and relays it on the church's PA system during services. The Rev Martyn Crompton said: "We try to use modern music, but not on this scale."

US flies in

The first aircraft have been moved into the new £11 million American section of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, near Cambridge. The building will house 28 aircraft, from a First World War biplane to Gulf War jets.

Offer grounded

Staff at Heathrow airport have snubbed a £200 tax-free offer to use public transport rather than drive to work. Only 20 out of 3,000 BAA staff have opted to trade in their parking passes for the cash.

Early smelter

What could be the oldest tin-smelting furnace in western Europe has been found at a medieval site near Bodmin, Cornwall. It is thought to have been used as early as the 12th century.

Slimmer by half

A woman who weighed 18st 3lbs two years ago was named Slimmer of the Year. Elaine Neale, 30, of Bedford, Warwickshire, met her fiancé after reaching her target of 9st 7lbs.

How Irish terrorist leader broke the heart of London society hostess

By NICHOLAS WATT

A NEW book provides illuminating details of Michael Collins's dalliance with a leading London hostess when the Sinn Féin leader was based in the capital during the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations in 1921.

Collins, who is played by Liam Neeson in a controversial new film, was said to have shared his secrets

as a terrorist leader with Lady Lavery, the wife of the painter Sir John Lavery. The Laverys, who visited Ireland in 1921, struck up a friendship with Collins when they opened their house in Cromwell Place, Kensington, to the Irish delegation at the negotiations with Lloyd George.

Lady Lavery and Collins became "intimate friends" after Sir John painted Collins's portrait, according

to the book by Sinead McCoole, entitled *Hazel: A Life of Lady Lavery, 1880-1935*. Collins had become engaged to Kitty Kiernan the night before he left for London in November 1921. But by early 1922 he was writing romantic poetry and letters to Lady Lavery. In one letter, in April 1922, he wrote: "I know I shall never again meet anyone so beautiful, so gay, so sad as you."

Lady Lavery travelled to Ireland

after the Treaty when Collins was immersed in the Civil War with republicans who were opposed to the partitioning of Ireland. Lady Lavery was said to be "pale with excitement" and fear when Collins travelled to Cork in August 1922, where he was murdered on the 22nd by anti-treaty republicans.

The book says: "Hazel was awoken the next morning by her maid to be informed: 'They have shot Mr

Collins, my lady.' The grief-stricken Hazel ... said: 'I knew it before I saw it in the papers. I had seen him in a dream. His face covered in blood' ... Hazel wanted to wear widow's weeds, but her friend restrained her."

The book was serialised in the *Sunday Independent* yesterday as Neil Jordan, the director of the new film about Collins, dismissed criticism that it would boost the IRA.

Speaking after the film won best film and Neeson best actor at the Venice Film Festival, Mr Jordan said that the film did not give any comfort to supporters of violence.

He told RTE: "The film is obviously tremendously pregnant with all sorts of resonance for the present ... But it does show the difficulty, or actually the impossibility, Collins himself found in removing the gun from Irish politics."

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National Westminster	4.79%	£295	£181.62	£20.47
Halifax	4.89%	£250	£185.41	£24.26
Assuming a standard variable rate of 6.99%			£265.04	£103.89

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Highways chief admits roads are in poor state

BRITAIN'S main roads are increasingly untidy and unkempt and the source of a large number of complaints, according to a letter written by Lawrence Haynes, chief executive of the Highways Agency.

The comments, in a letter to a Tory MP, dated August 30 and released yesterday by the RAC, said that, in addition to other problems, drain and ditch cleaning, grass cutting, litter clearance and sign cleaning had all been reduced this year due to insufficient funds.

Edmund King, the RAC's head of campaigns, said the letter revealed the sorry condition of Britain's roads. "It is a scandal that the nation's vital infrastructure is being allowed to crumble into disrepair, with overgrown verges, unreadable traffic signs, foul-smelling ditches and unusable roads and bridges."

He said the Highways Agency could not do its job with insufficient money from the Treasury. "Britain's roads increasingly resemble those of an impoverished state and the current crisis could hit winter maintenance hard," he said.

Mr Haynes wrote: "We judge that an increase in the overall trunk road maintenance budget from £526 million to some £600 million next year will enable us to prevent further serious deterioration." He added that preventative works had not been carried out this year.

Takeaway oil platform goes on sale for £30m

THE American oil company Phillips Petroleum is advertising the availability of its giant 112,000-tonne Maureen production platform, built in Scotland and installed 163 miles northeast of Aberdeen.

The structure, which is 625ft high, has been pumping oil since 1983. The expected price for the platform is £30 million; a new one would cost at least £100 million and take four years to design and build.

The platform is the only steel one in the North Sea and was designed to be towed away and reused. Instead of being pinned to the seabed with steel piles, it rests by gravity on top of three oil storage tanks.

The company's engineers have recently conducted a study into relocating it and believe that it can be done, probably at a cost of about a further £30 million. A spokeswoman said: "The platform is in very good order and it should have a life of at least another 25 to 30 years."

Originally 36 million gallons of crude oil per day (400,000 barrels) gushed through its facilities, but now that the field is almost drained the flow-rate is down to just a tenth of this. Phillips Petroleum believes that all the extractable oil will have been pumped out in between two and four years' time.

Body Shop renews fight for animal-testing ban

BODY SHOP, the natural cosmetics retailer, launches a campaign today for a European Union ban on testing cosmetics on animals. A MORI poll conducted for the group has found that such a ban has overwhelming support in Britain.

The campaign is in response to a leaked copy of confidential European Commission documents, which show that the EU may delay indefinitely the start of its own previously

agreed ban. Anita Roddick, founder of Body Shop, said: "This is another ridiculous proposal made behind closed doors by the same sort of EU officials who five years ago wanted to make it compulsory for cosmetic companies to test everything on animals."

"We successfully defeated the plan then. This time we'll take six million signatures to Brussels and make the EU politicians listen to the people and impose the ban."

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Suppliers say rule change intended to control felling of forests will end decades of rural tradition

Willow cutters fear red tape will stump batsmen

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT



W.G. Grace in action: More than 90 per cent of the world's bats are made from English trees

THE crack of leather on willow echoing around the village green is under threat from an official gooley. Cricket-bat manufacturers face a shortage of raw material because the felling of willows on small patches of farmland has been disrupted by new rules designed to control the felling of forests.

Traditional makers who have been using the native wood since before the days of W.G. Grace are talking about turning to alternative methods. Forestry Commission officials in East Anglia, where the largest amount is grown, say they sympathise but have been overruled by their head office in Edinburgh, not famous as a city of cricket lovers.

The threat to world supplies stems from a little-noticed development last May when Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary and minister in charge of forestry, announced that, in future, all applications for licences to fell trees would

have to go on a public register for at least 28 days. The aim was to allow time for the public, conservation groups, local authorities and others to scrutinise forest-felling plans and raise objections on environmental or other grounds. Cricket suppliers, who grow willows beside rivers or ditches, say that the delay may deny them the opportunity to reach their trees.

Carleton Wright, chairman of J.S. Wright & Sons of Great Leighs, Essex, suppliers of cricket willow since 1894, said: "We have to work in close co-operation with the farmers on whose land we grow our trees. Farmers ring us up when the corn is cut and say, 'Come and fell your trees now.'"

"In 14 days the field will have been ploughed and the next crop sown. If we miss the opportunity, we may not be able to get on to the land for another year. This red tape could strangle our business."

More than 90 per cent of the world's bats are made from English trees, which are the only significant source of the variety of white willow, *Salix alba* var. *coerulea*. Kashmir, the other main grower, keeps supplies for domestic use.

Mr Wright, son of the firm's founder, is 84 but still works most mornings sorting the rough-hewn cricket bat blades, or "clefts", into 20 different quality grades. Although the firm produces the raw material for an estimated two thirds of world cricket bat production, it remains a family business. Mr Wright's nephew, Nick Carlton, is managing director, and a grandson, Jeremy, became involved on leaving school a few years ago.

The wedge-shaped clefts are split by hand from sections of willow trunk, roughly cut by circular saws into cricket blade shape, dried for eight weeks in airing sheds, then sold on to bat manufacturers for finishing. This year the



Carleton Wright, 84, grading willow at the firm his father founded. He said: "This could strangle our business"

Wrights expect to produce 250,000 blades of which about half will be exported.

The post-harvest period is crucial. Up to 30 per cent of the 5,000 to 5,500 trees the Wrights need each year will be felled in the next two months. Chris Price, the only director

who is not a family member, said: "Any disruption could force manufacturers to look at other materials. It is not as if we are denuding the countryside. We plant up to three trees for every one we fell."

Another producer, Doug Watling, of the Anglian Wil-

low Service at High Ongar, Essex, whose family has been supplying bat willow for four generations, said: "Unless we can impress on the powers that be that the 28-day licence is totally unworkable, it will be the end for my business."

In a letter last month to Mr Watling, Andrew Mason, the Forestry Commission conservator for East Anglia, said: "We have argued strongly that cricket bat willow should be excluded, but our hands are tied in this matter."

Cricket, pages 32-34

Budget curbs will hit inmates, says prisons director

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE prison population could reach a record 59,000 within six months because the number entering English and Welsh jails is running at 250 a week, according to the Director-General of the Prison Service.

Richard Tilt said that, faced with this population, budget cuts of 13.3 per cent over three years were no longer sustainable without damaging regimes for inmates and cutting the number of hours they spend out of cells. "If we do not get extra money, we shall have to seriously reduce our operations," he said. "Security cannot be touched so we will be looking at less time spent on purposeful activities."

The latest population figure is 4,500 above previous estimates and comes as Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is involved in public expenditure discussions with the Treasury. The squeeze on spending comes as the Government faces a mounting bill for its "prison works" policy and to meet the costs of recommendations made in the Learmont report for improved jail security and training of staff.

A further £75 million is needed to provide additional accommodation to deal with

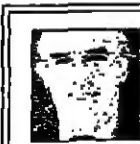
the rising population. Hundreds of millions are needed to meet key recommendations made by the Learmont report into jail security, including minimum security standards.

Mr Tilt said that the service was beginning to plan for the consequences of the Government's planned tougher sentencing regime for burglars and drug dealers. He said that it had identified 20 sites where new houseblocks costing about £100 million could be built to house a further 3,000 prisoners.

The curbs on expenditure have resulted in the service appointing a career civil servant rather than a person with private-sector experience as the next director of finance. The appointment of Robert Fulton, a former director of industries and farms, was met with reservations by some Prisons Board members.

There is a shortfall of 20,000 homes for ex-offenders with at least a third of those released unable to find a home, according to the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders. Money for such a purpose was suspended by the Home Office in 1992, when £5 million was earmarked.

Sleuths solve case of sick detective



MEDICAL BRIEFING

AS P.D. JAMES's Inspector Dalgliesh in the television series, Roy Marsden became the popular image of the intelligent and well-read, but sardonic, detective. Recently Marsden was the victim and his doctors had to do the detective work. The actor collapsed suddenly with a severe chest pain and breathlessness during an after-hearsal dinner.

Fortunately, in his case, the symptoms were of such dramatic onset that the cause must have been obvious to the most recently qualified PC Plod of the medical world. The actor had had a spontaneous pneumothorax, in which air enters the pleural space from the lung. As air accumulates in the space, the lung is progressively compressed and the patient becomes more breathless. When a large amount of air suddenly escapes from the lung into the pleural cavity, acute breathlessness occurs.

When a large air bubble has formed, the chest contents are forced over to one side so that the trachea and larynx are no longer central and the heart is not where one expects to find it. One side of the chest sounds as hollow as a drum when the doctor taps it, and when he listens it is silent, devoid of the usual sounds of breathing. The X-ray confirms the absence of lung markings. In a massive pneumothorax, such as Mr Marsden seems to have suffered, the

pain may be so severe and the breathlessness, sometimes accompanied by a cough, so acute that the patient may suffer physiological shock, occasionally with serious consequences. Spontaneous pneumothorax affects men six times more often than women; the men are usually tall and thin and under 40.

Air escapes from the lung into the pleura to cause pneumothorax when a bulla, or blister, in the lung bursts. Bullae may be present as congenital abnormalities or they may have formed as a result of long-standing lung disease, in particular emphysema, which is common among smokers. Playing the trumpet or other wind instruments is popularly thought to trigger the disaster. Mr Marsden, 55, was a heavy smoker until last year and the damage done by that is probably the underlying cause of his trouble.

Treatment is simple. A very small pneumothorax is left to nature and the air is reabsorbed without medical interference. In larger cases it has to be drawn off, with the method depending on the size of the pneumothorax. The good news is that patients initially make an excellent recovery, as has Mr Marsden. The bad news is that 30 per cent have a recurrence.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFOED

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Sex scandal aide faces Republican subpoena threat

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE White House is suffering fresh embarrassment after congressional Republicans announced that they are planning to subpoena Dick Morris, President Clinton's disgraced political guru.

The Republican chairmen of two House and Senate committees said they wanted to question Mr Morris after the prostitute with whom he had a year-long affair claimed he had told her that Hillary Clinton was behind the "filagate scandal".

Sherry Rowlands, the prostitute, said she asked Mr Morris during one of their meetings at Washington's Jefferson Hotel who ordered the White House's improper acquisition of as many as 900 confidential FBI files on Republican officials. According to a contemporaneous entry in her diary, Mr Morris replied: "It was Hillary in 1993. She ordered them. She's a paranoid lady — she did it."

The White House angrily denied that claim, and said Mr Morris had telephoned Clinton campaign officials to deny the comments Ms Rowlands had attributed to him.

However, William Clinger, who chairs the House committee that has been investigating the files affair, said he could

not dismiss the charge "coming as it does from someone [Mr Morris] who was clearly in a position to know and had access to the very highest levels of the White House in June 1996 when my committee first uncovered this massive invasion of privacy".

Mr Clinger said Mr Morris should confirm or deny under oath the words Ms Rowlands had attributed to him, or face a subpoena to testify. A spokesman for Orrin Hatch, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he was also considering summoning the former Clinton aide.

Mr Morris, the chief architect of Mr Clinton's political recovery and "family values" campaign, resigned just hours before the Democratic convention a week last Thursday after tabloid newspapers disclosed his affair with Ms Rowlands. Late last week the same newspapers revealed that he had also had a 15-year affair with a Texan woman by whom he had a six-year-old daughter.

The White House has been publicly solicitous of Mr Morris since his downfall. Mr Clinton praised his work. The President, Mrs Clinton and Al Gore, the Vice-President, have all telephoned him to commiserate, and the President told his aides that he did not want them to disparage Mr Morris in comments to the media.

This strategy may reflect the White House's desire to put the whole episode behind it as quickly as possible, or a desire to keep Mr Morris sweet so he does not embarrass the President in his forthcoming book.

Mr Morris has intensely angered White House officials since his resignation by refusing to lie low and publicly claiming the credit for Mr Clinton's political resurrection over the past two years. "When it first happened... there was a decent amount of genuine sympathy," one official told yesterday's *Washington Post*. Now there was "a feeling of betrayal, a feeling that Morris was out for himself from the start."

Little Rock, Arkansas: Claims by Susan McDougal that prosecutors have harassed her to implicate Mr Clinton brought a sharp response from Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater prosecutor. Mrs McDougal and her lawyer are "brazenly trying to deceive the public," he said in a statement. "Their continued attempts to mislead the public... are outrageous and unethical." (AP)



Mike Maccalupo and his wife, Gigi, of Surf City, North Carolina, walk through wreckage left by Hurricane Fran. Their home was spared

Hurricanes play havoc with Caribbean cruises

New York: Ocean liners are having their sailing schedules severely buffeted by the 1996 hurricane season (Quentin Letts writes). Voyages are being disrupted and ports switched.

As Hurricane Hortense brewed in the Caribbean yesterday, the fourth such storm of the season, passengers from a New York cruise ship described their nightmare last week

when their liner was caught in the 115mph winds of Hurricane Fran. The 680ft-long *Zenith*, a holiday liner cruising to Bermuda, was hit by 35ft waves and started to list badly in the storm. The 1,400 passengers were thrown from bunks and struck by flying objects. Injuries included broken legs, sprained ankles, cuts and bruises, with seasickness widespread.

People left their cabins to sleep in corridor floors on the main deck. *Zenith* survived, however, and limped into Bermuda with some passengers in wheelchairs and her hull dented.

Other cruise operators have not risked putting their vessels to sea in the Caribbean. Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines redirected one of its ships to the west coast of Florida. Yesterday

the death toll from Hurricane Fran was put at 22, and severe flooding remained a problem in parts of North Carolina and Virginia. The last whippers of the storm were blowing round the Great Lakes, and hurricane-watchers were monitoring Hortense, apparently heading towards Haiti.

Photograph, page 24

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Kevorkian thwarts police at deathbed

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S "Dr Death", the euthanasia campaigner Dr Jack Kevorkian, attended his 40th assisted suicide despite a deathbed raid by police.

Dr Kevorkian, 68, a retired pathologist who has long championed the right of the terminally ill to end their lives, was in a Michigan motel room with his patient when six policemen arrived at the door and demanded to know what was going on. They had heard that a suicide was about to take place.

The ill woman, Isabel Correa, dragged herself from her bed to give a news conference in which, from a wheelchair, she bitterly criticised the police for interrupting her final hours. She explained that her spinal illness left her in constant pain. "I know what I am doing," she said, adding that police had confiscated her rosary and some painkillers. "My privacy has been violated. I want to die. I am not depressed."

Hours later, to the frustration of the police, it was

announced that the gaunt Mrs Correa had achieved her goal. Her body was taken to a nearby hospital by Dr Kevorkian.

Dr Kevorkian called the police action "proof we've got Nazi stormtroopers and the Gestapo right here". Geoffrey Fieger, his lawyer, said: "Despite the efforts of those thugs, Isabel ended her pain today with the help of Dr Kevorkian. She is free from her suffering."

Holding Mrs Correa's purple sweater, he said that she had given it to him as a symbol just minutes before her death. "She wanted it to be a flag of freedom," said Mr Fieger, who has helped Dr Kevorkian to overcome numerous court actions by the Michigan authorities.

Richard Thompson, a local prosecutor, restated his determination to stop Dr Kevorkian. In spite of court defeats and an apparent lack of public support, he said: "It has always been my position that there is still a law against assisted suicide."

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AMERICAN ELECTION COUNTDOWN

THE RACE

THE US elections will take place on November 5 (Tim Hanes writes). With both major conventions past, both campaigns will be at full throttle. The electorate does not usually become fully engaged until mid-October. A set of three debates between the presidential candidates and one between the vice-presidential aspirants are to start this month and may prove conclusive.

President Clinton enters the home straight with a solid lead of ten to 15 points, according to most polls. However, the same surveys suggest the public has little enthusiasm for any of the contenders. Most observers expect the race to narrow in the next few weeks. Over the past seven outings, the average shift between early September and polling day has been eight points, mostly against the front-runner.

THE presidency is not settled by a straight popular vote but through a device called the Electoral College (Tim Hanes writes). Each state has a number of votes in it equal to the total of its senators (always two) and members of the House of Representatives (varying by population). Seven states and the District of Columbia have the minimum of three votes. California has 54. A candidate requires 270 of the 538 votes available to be elected. Were no man to

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

manage that (which last happened in 1824), the House of Representatives would choose the President. In every state but two (Maine and Nebraska), the candidate who wins the most votes on November 5 is automatically awarded the entire College delegation.

Officially no one is elected President until the ballots of these 538 individuals are counted. The people concerned will be handpicked supporters of the candidate from that state. They are not legally obliged to back their stated champion and there have been numerous examples of so-called "faithless electors" falling to do so. The last was 1988 when an elector from West Virginia endorsed Lloyd Bentsen, the senator for President and Michael Dukakis for Vice-President in an apparent

protest at the absurdity of the entire system.

Candidates concentrate their time and resources in the few highly populated states that dominate the College. Victory in the 11 largest alone would produce the 270 votes needed. If a candidate won most of these narrowly but were beaten soundly elsewhere, then they could acquire an Electoral College majority and thus become President despite attaining fewer votes nationally than the "loser".

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

DESPITE numerous laws passed after the Watergate scandal to restrict the influence of money in US politics, access to ample cash remains a vital campaign resource and US elections rank as the most expensive in the world (Tim Hanes writes). Legally, both major candidates receive a grant from the taxpayer (\$62 million, or £40 million, this year) which, with an amount their party may raise (\$12 million in 1996), is the absolute maximum they may spend. This \$74 million represents only part of actual expenditure. Numerous loopholes mean that the national party, state parties, interest groups, corporations, and even candidates can find ways to funnel in money. By these nefarious routes, supporters of both major candidates will ensure an extra \$100-\$150 million enters the election.

THE CLINTON STRATEGY

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

EIGHT weeks tomorrow America will elect its next President, and White House officials are now so confident that Bill Clinton will win the last campaign of his political career that they are beginning to whisper the L-word — "landslide".

Mr Clinton is warning against complacency, but such optimism seems entirely warranted. The latest survey of individual state polls showed the President leading in 33 states with 408 Electoral College votes, 138 more than the 270 he requires for re-election, and the survey was completed before last month's Democratic convention boosted his figures further. Mr Clinton had double-digit leads in 25 of those states. Bob Dole had double-digit leads in just four states with 21 Electoral College votes.

It is an astonishing comeback by a President who was elected with just 43 per cent of the vote in 1992, suffered non-stop scandals and disasters throughout his first two years in office, and was universally written off after Newt Gingrich's Republicans seized control of Congress in 1994.

Mr Clinton is still not popular, but he has masterfully repositioned himself as a bulwark against the Republicans' perceived extremism while co-opting their best issues. He has also been greatly assisted

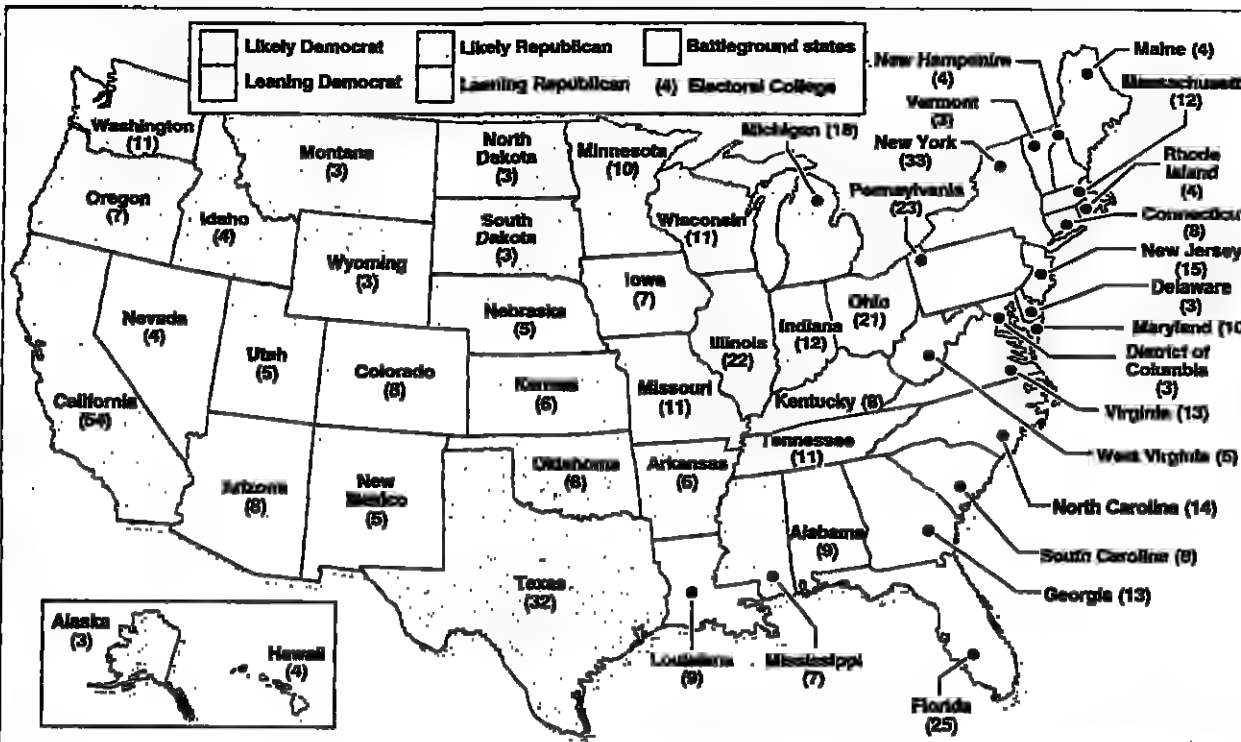


Clinton: huge lead

by the Republicans nominating one of the weakest presidential candidates in memory.

The President's goal as he enters the home stretch is simple — play it safe. He offers no great vision for his second term, only a list of relatively modest proposals. In 1992 he portrayed himself as a catalyst for radical change, but this year he argues that he has put the economy back on track and it would be madness to jeopardise that progress through the reckless tax cuts Mr Dole is proposing.

Leading article, page 21



BY MARTIN FLETCHER

THE PEROT FACTOR

IF BOB DOLE'S prospects look bleak, those of Ross Perot and his new Reform Party look bleaker still.

In 1992 the maverick Texas billionaire won 19 million votes, helped to set the agenda, and arguably put Bill Clinton in the White House by splitting the Republican vote. This year he has yet to have any discernible impact.

In 1992 Mr Perot won 19 per cent of the vote, but the latest polls measure his support at 5 to 8 per cent. Then, he poured \$60 million (£38.5

million) of his personal fortune into his campaign, but this time he has accepted \$30 million in federal funds and so is limited to just \$50,000 of his own. He has yet to find anyone of stature to be his running-mate and it has yet to be decided whether he will be allowed to participate in the presidential debates given his single-digit poll support.

Dick Lamm, the former Colorado Governor who challenged him for the Reform Party's nomination,

has accused him of abusing the party's slapdash nomination process and refused to endorse him. Mr Perot's negative ratings are sky-high. A *New York Times* poll last week showed just 11 per cent of respondents thought favourably of him and 60 per cent unfavourably.

His position could yet improve. He should soon be on the ballot in all 50 states. He has begun broadcasting 30-minute "infomercials", and still has a lot of money to spend in just eight weeks.



Perot: negative ratings

THE DOLE STRATEGY



Bob Dole has proved a pedestrian campaigner

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

LAST Friday optimised Bob Dole's sinking fortunes. An incompetent aide arranged for him to campaign at a New Jersey factory that made inflatable life rafts. Mr Dole was unable to fulfil even that ill-advised engagement because his plane was grounded by Hurricane Fran.

That non-appearance capped another dismal week for the 73-year-old Republican. President Saddam Hussein's foray into Arbil gave President Clinton a priceless chance to stand tall and tough against the world's most celebrated bully. The only news Mr Dole generated was a seemingly desperate shake-up of his advisers.

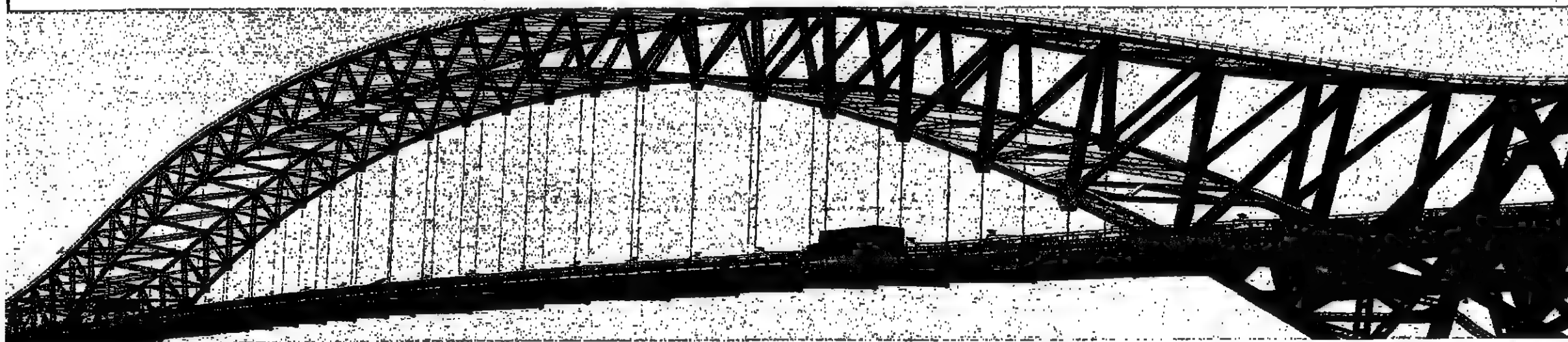
Mr Dole's position is so dire that he must defy historical precedent to win what is the last campaign of his career. He trails by 14 to 20 points — and in virtually every demographic group

— and no presidential candidate has ever closed such a chasm this late on.

Instead of focusing on the half-dozen "battleground" states, Mr Dole is having to defend his own base against a rampaging President, and his resources are being stretched perilously thin. He has proved, to put it charitably, a pedestrian campaigner.

Mr Dole has opted for some drastic remedies. In June he dramatically quit the Senate to campaign full-time. Last month he selected the mercurial Jack Kemp as his running-mate, despite deep personal and political differences. He is betting everything on his other great surprise — his demand for a 15 per cent across-the-board cut in income taxes — but the electorate's response has been distinctly underwhelming.

The one issue on which Mr Clinton is vulnerable is that of "character", but it is a tough one for Mr Dole to exploit.



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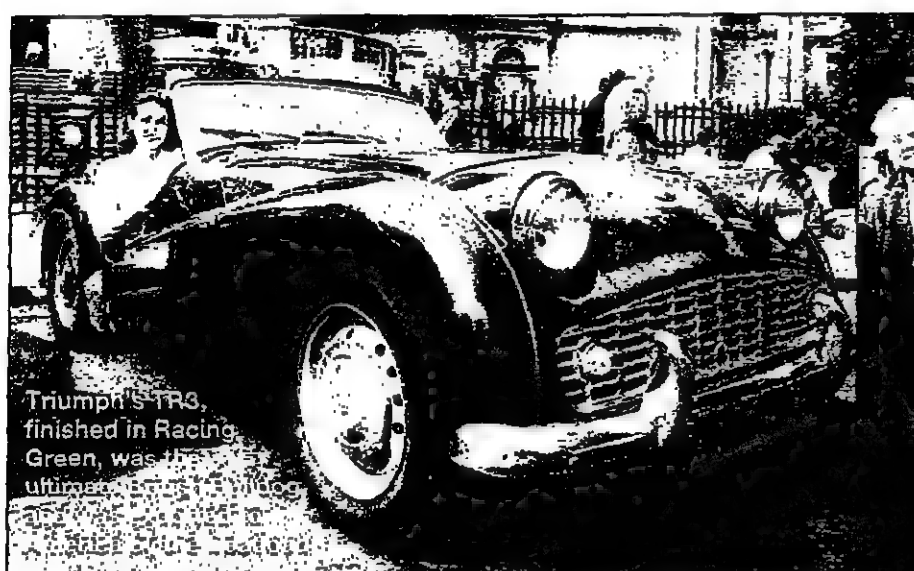
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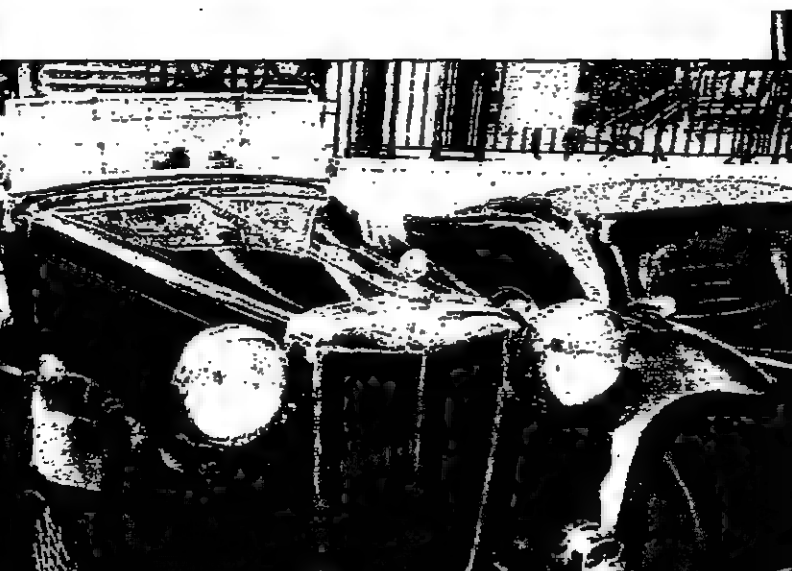
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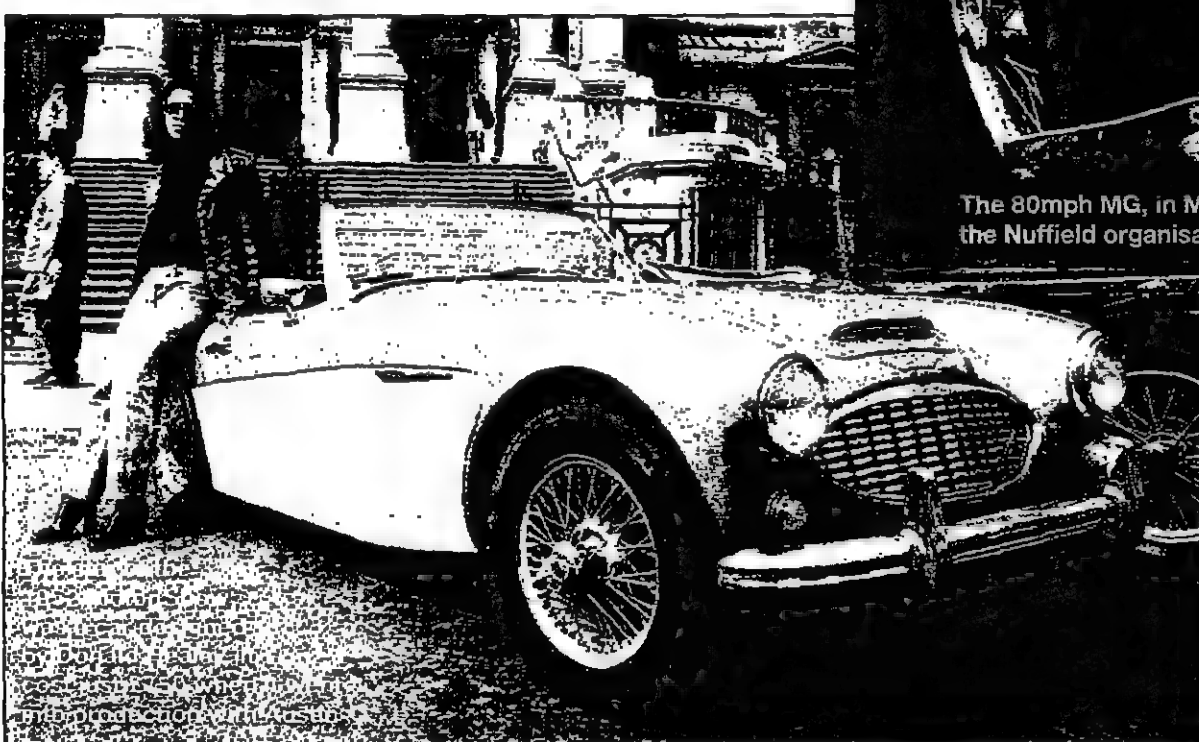
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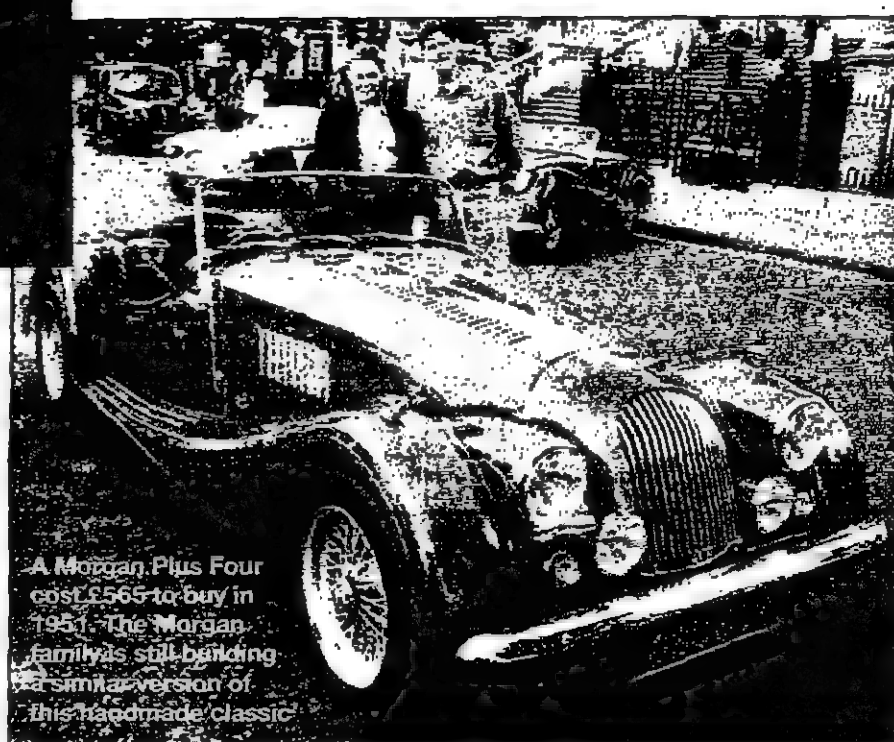
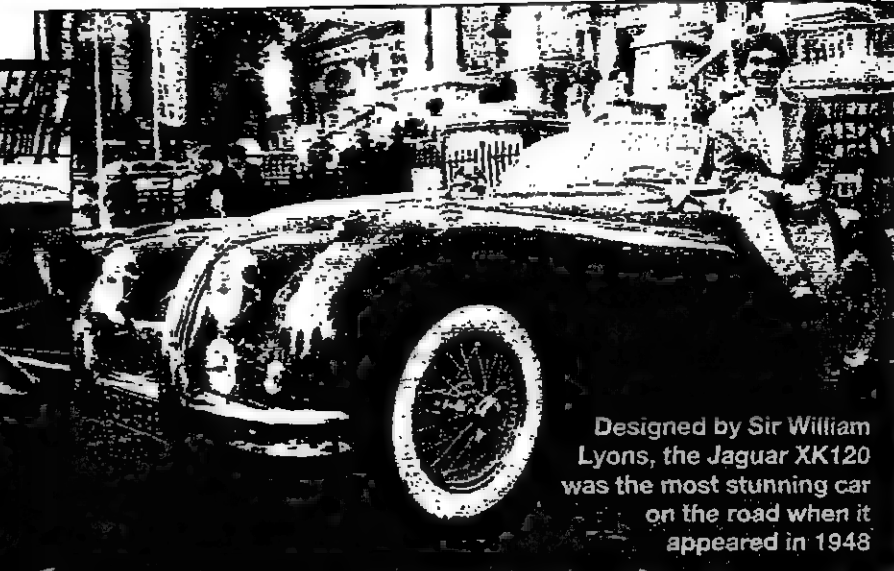
Triumph TR3, finished in Racing Green, was the ultimate



Designed by Sir William Lyons, the Jaguar XK120 was the most stunning car on the road when it appeared in 1948



The 80mph MG, in Mason's Black, cost £445 when the Nuffield organisation put it on the market in 1949



A Morgan Plus Four cost £565 to buy in 1951. The Morgan family is still building a similar version of this handmade classic

The cars given as prizes will be of the same marque but not necessarily the same model as those used in the Royal Mail stamps or the photographs, shown here. The prizes include delivery anywhere in the British Isles. Each car will be in good order, with a new MOT certificate and will have been inspected by an experienced mechanic

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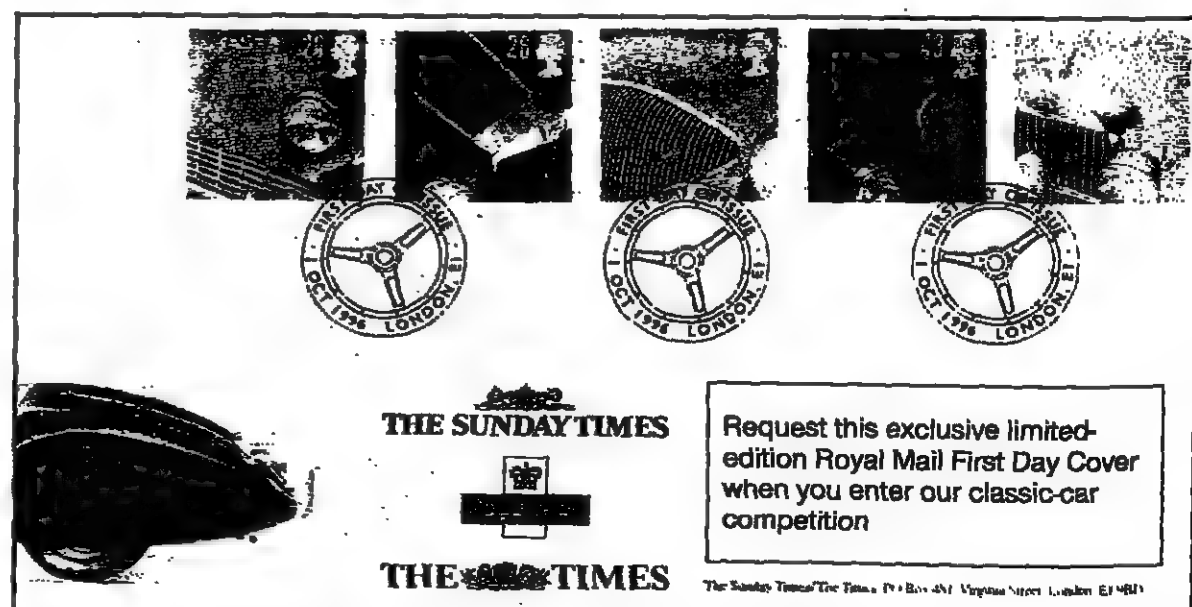
- Triumph TR3A, 1960 ● MG TC, 1949 ● Morgan Plus Four
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FREE limited-edition first day covers

The first day cover, pictured below, has been produced by the Royal Mail exclusively for Times Newspapers. It features five stamps which will be launched on Tuesday, October 1, ranging in denominations from 20p to 63p.



Royal Mail decided to mark British motoring's celebration of two centenaries this year with a set of five special stamps. The Emancipation Act of 1896 created a new class of light locomotive, for which the speed limit was trebled to 12mph and did away with the need for a man to walk in front of a car with a red flag. The British motor industry also began in 1896 with the registration of Daimler to manufacture British-built cars in Coventry.

● Presentation packs, first day covers, postcards, and the Classic Sports Car stamps are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau: call 0345 641 641 (Mon-Fri); and most Post Offices – for more details call 0345 22 33 44. First day covers are also available from BPCPA: 0181 886 6744



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What was the speed limit for a light locomotive raised to in 1896?

Tick answer a) ☐ 10mph b) ☐ 12mph c) ☐ 15mph

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- ☐ Triumph TR3A, 1960; ☐ MG TC, 1949;
☐ Austin Healey 100/4, 1954; ☐ Jaguar XK120, 1948;
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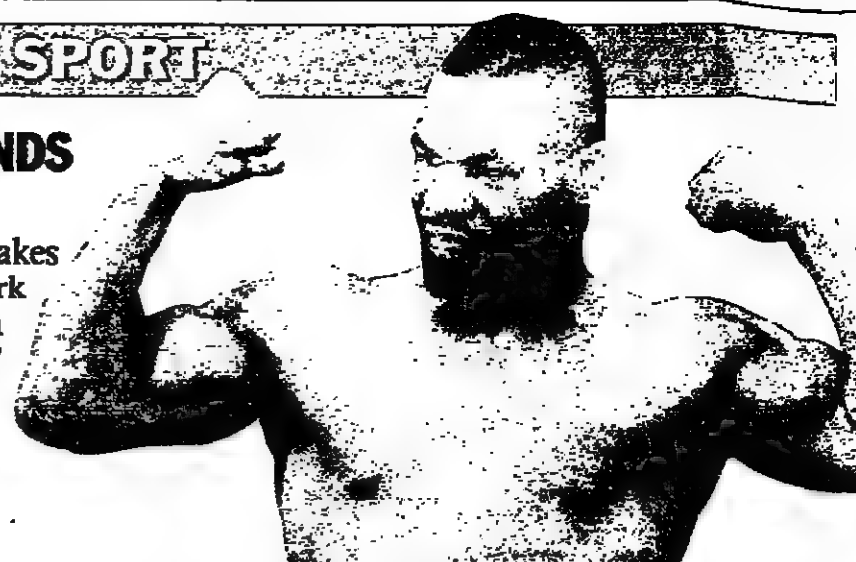
FEVER PITCH
Lancashire crush Essex at Lord's but fail to satisfy their critics PAGE 33



UNITED AMBITION
Can Ferguson lead his team to European glory? PAGE 29



SECONDS OUT
Tyson makes short work of Seldon PAGE 27



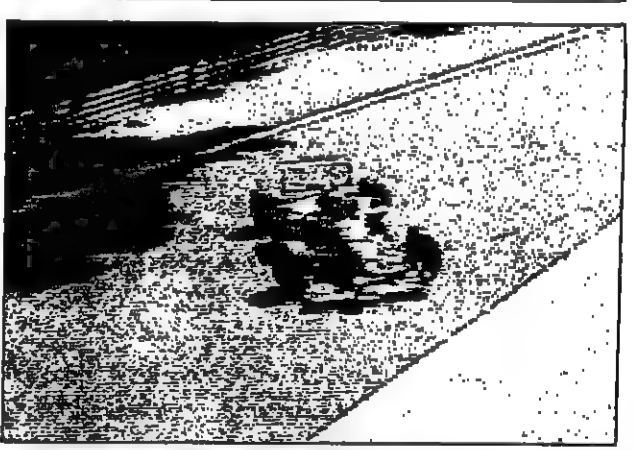
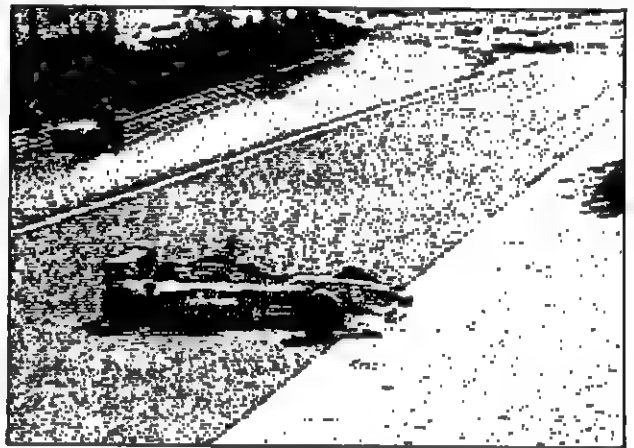
TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9 1996

SCHUMACHER SHINES AS LEADERS MISS THEIR CHANCES



Hill looks back in anguish at his car after the accident which deprived him of a chance to win the drivers' championship yesterday. Photograph: Luca Bruno



On the sixth lap, Hill clipped the tyres, spun full circle and came to rest with a broken suspension

Tyre change puts Hill in spin

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN MONZA

THE climax to the struggle for the Formula One world championship, a global contest that is fought out in cars costing millions of pounds, was thrown into chaos yesterday by a few piles of hastily erected tyres. Damon Hill could not escape their destructive touch as he tried to clinch his first drivers' title, but they were to prove his salvation as well as his undoing.

Hill had driven with such startling aggression and assurance in the early laps of the Italian Grand Prix that it seemed the lead he had established and the troubles afflicting his team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, were pushing him towards a glorious victory and the title celebration party that had been tentatively planned for last night in Milan.

The champagne is on ice, now, of course but, at the end of a traumatic week for Hill, the week in which it was revealed that he would be sacked by the Williams team at the end of the season, it could have been a lot worse. Instead of a result that could have shackled him with a tiny advantage over Villeneuve, the Italian Grand Prix turned into Hill's version of *The Great Escape*.

At the beginning of the sixth lap, after he had emerged the stronger in a thrilling dice with the Benetton-Renault of Jean Alesi, Hill clipped

one of the piles of tyres that had been placed at the edge of the kerb in the first chicane at the insistence of the drivers, who were concerned that an unfair advantage could be gained by cutting the corner.

The impact of the collision ripped the steering wheel out of Hill's hands and bent his front suspension, spinning him round and bringing his stalled Williams-Renault to rest in

the middle of the track. He leapt out and ran to the grass verge, holding his head in his hands and pounding the guard rail with frustration.

His error could have allowed his team-mate to slash Hill's lead in the race for the title but, by now, the tyres were causing havoc. David Coulthard, Heinz-Harald Frentzen and Riccardo Rosset all had their races ended by collisions with the

tyres. Michael Schumacher, who became the first Ferrari winner of the Italian Grand Prix for eight years, only narrowly kept control of his car when he brushed them.

Villeneuve, too, slipped into the trap that he had been instrumental in laying. During practice on Friday, some of the plastic cones that had been in place at the chicanes were ripped out when they were hit by cars

and threw up lumps of potentially lethal concrete. Hill and Villeneuve suggested the tyres.

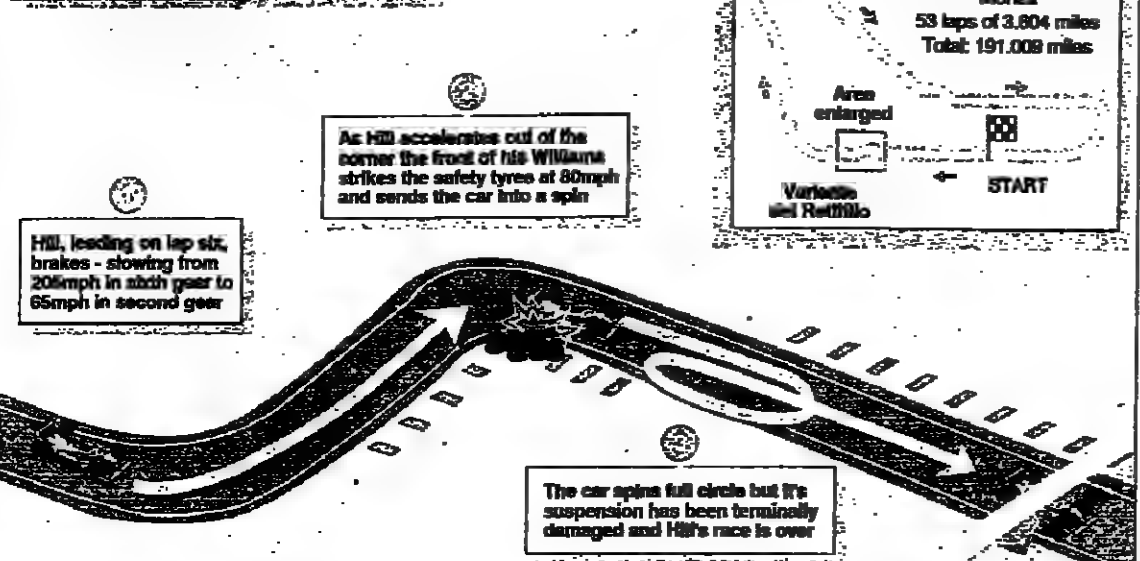
On the fourth lap, Villeneuve hit another tyre pile at the second chicane so hard that it damaged his suspension, too. He was able to continue but could only limp to the chequered flag in seventh place, one position away from the points.

Hill will race in the Portuguese Grand Prix in Estoril two weeks from now knowing that a win will assure him of the title. Villeneuve must collect four points more than the Englishman in order to take the fight for the title to the last grand prix of the season, in Japan on October 13.

"I am a very lucky man to escape with my lead intact," Hill said. "I could have finished it off today because the car was really stretching its legs. I will not find it easy to put it behind me but at least Jacques was not able to capitalise on the situation."

"I can offer no explanation for what happened other than I did not concentrate hard enough and it was my mistake. I can't blame anyone but myself for what happened and I cannot blame anyone for putting the tyres there. When I hit them, it just yanked the steering wheel out of my hand and spun the car round. I was kicking myself. It is a race victory I have lost. That is what hurts most."

HOW HILL HIT THE SKIDS



ITALIAN GRAND PRIX
Monza
53 laps of 3.904 miles
Total: 191,008 miles

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SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. MONDAY 15 OCTOBER. 1996

Brilliant Schumacher drives Italy wild with joy



Schumacher celebrates his comfortable victory

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER acted out a compelling passion play here yesterday when he added a delicious, homespun twist to Ferrari's gathering renaissance by crushing his rivals in the Italian Grand Prix. He sent 150,000 spectators into a paroxysm of joy and destroyed the myth that the Ferrari fans would never take him to their hearts. Yesterday, in fact, they fell hopelessly and irrevocably in love with him, seduced by his brilliance.

From every corner of the great royal park that surrounds the circuit, from every grandstand, from every precarious vantage point, they came surging down the main straight towards the podium in a tidal wave of happy humanity. Schumacher beamed down at them from the winner's rostrum and pumped his fists in uninhibited delight.

His third win of the season, achieved after Damon Hill's efforts to clinch the world championship with two races to spare had ended on the fifth lap after a collision with

a pile of tyres, was Ferrari's first win in their home grand prix since Gerhard Berger's victory here in 1988. More importantly, it provided more evidence that Schumacher, in particular, will be the chief threat to the dominance of the Williams team next season.

"Never in my life," Schumacher said, "have I experienced anything as incredible as this. Up on the podium, with all the people going crazy below me, it was fantastic to witness the sea of red. This would only be possible in Italy and it gave me goose bumps everywhere. The fans have waited a long time for it and they deserve it."

Schumacher started from third on the grid, behind Hill and the Englishman's Williams-Renault team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, but had dropped to sixth by the end of the first lap. But after both the Williams drivers miscalculated their route through the chicanes, he moved quickly up to second place by the eighth lap and was soon right on the tail of the leader, Jean

Oliver Holt reports from Monza on a triumph for Ferrari that delighted the home supporters

Alesi, who had made a startling burst off the line to take the lead from sixth place.

Schumacher bided his time behind Alesi and when the Frenchman made his first pit-stop, on the 31st lap, Schumacher drove two blistering circuits of the track, made his own pit-stop, and emerged comfortably in the lead.

He was never threatened again although he, too, brushed one of the tyre barriers and admitted that he had nearly lost control.

In the end, though, he finished more than 18 seconds ahead of Alesi to spark the track invasion and send the Ferrari team scurrying from the pit wall with their equipment as the fans descended.

MONZA DETAILS

RESULT: 1. M. Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1hr 43.62sec; 2. J. Alesi (Fr, Benetton) 1hr 43.65sec; 3. M. Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1hr 43.71sec; 4. M. Satorra (Esp, Minardi) 1hr 43.72sec; 5. R. Barrichello (Br, Jordan) 1hr 43.73sec; 6. P. Dini (It, Ligier) 1hr 43.74sec; 7. J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1hr 43.75sec; 8. J. Verstappen (Hol, Footwork) 1hr 43.76sec; 9. J. Herbert (GB, Sauber) 1hr 43.77sec; 10. U. Kuhnemann (Ger, Tyrrell) 1hr 43.78sec; 11. D. Hill (GB, Williams) 1hr 43.79sec; 12. M. Sato (Jpn, Tyrrell) 1hr 43.80sec; 13. H. Frentzen (Ger, Sauber) 1hr 43.81sec; 14. G. Lehto (Fin, Minardi) 1hr 43.82sec; 15. G. Agnelli (It, Ligier) 1hr 43.83sec; 16. P. Dini (It, Ligier) 1hr 43.84sec; 17. J. Alesi (Fr, Benetton) 1hr 43.85sec; 18. P. Dini (It, Ligier) 1hr 43.86sec; 19. J. Alesi (Fr, Benetton) 1hr 43.87sec; 20. P. Dini (It, Ligier) 1hr 43.88sec.

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS (after 14 rounds): Drivers: 1. M. Schumacher 38, 2. Villeneuve 35, 3. Schumacher 32, 4. Alesi 24, 5. Hill 21, 6. Coulthard 18, 7. Barrichello 14, 8. P. Dini 13, 9. Satorra 10, 10. Frentzen 9, 11. Verstappen 8, 12. Sato 7, 13. Herbert 6, 14. Dini 5, 15. Villeneuve 4, 16. Agnelli 3, 17. Williams 2, 18. Benetton 1, 19. Frentzen 1, 20. Ligier 1, 21. Sauber 1, 22. Tyrrell 1, 23. Minardi 1, 24. Agnelli 1, 25. Ligier 1, 26. Sauber 1, 27. Tyrrell 1, 28. Minardi 1, 29. Agnelli 1, 30. Ligier 1, 31. Sauber 1, 32. Tyrrell 1, 33. Minardi 1, 34. Agnelli 1, 35. Ligier 1, 36. Sauber 1, 37. Tyrrell 1, 38. Minardi 1, 39. Agnelli 1, 40. Ligier 1, 41. Sauber 1, 42. Tyrrell 1, 43. Minardi 1, 44. Agnelli 1, 45. Ligier 1, 46. Sauber 1, 47. Tyrrell 1, 48. Minardi 1, 49. Agnelli 1, 50. Ligier 1, 51. Sauber 1, 52. Tyrrell 1, 53. Minardi 1, 54. Agnelli 1, 55. Ligier 1, 56. Sauber 1, 57. Tyrrell 1, 58. Minardi 1, 59. Agnelli 1, 60. Ligier 1, 61. Sauber 1, 62. Tyrrell 1, 63. Minardi 1, 64. 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FOOTBALL: REID FINDS LITTLE CHEER IN THE COMEDY OF ERRORS PLAYED OUT AT ROKER PARK

Sunderland serve up goalless bore

Sunderland 0
West Ham United 0

By DAVID MADDOCK

NO WONDER the playful theme tune of the Sunderland support is *Cheer Up, Peter Reid*. Much more of this, and their manager will lapse into a state of acute depression from which there is no escape.

It was the fifth goalless draw in the past seven matches at Roker Park, an almost inevitable outcome when you consider that West Ham United have not won away from home since March. Of such fare is the stuff of relegation made.

It was that bad. In fact it was worse. The blustery conditions were not conducive to expansive football, but neither were they an excuse for the bland rubbish that was served up here. At least Reid did not try to hide the fact that he was, indeed, depressed afterwards.

"It wasn't the best of football matches," he said. "We found it hard to play football in the second half we decided to

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go a little bit more direct. We didn't play well, and I know, hand on heart, it wasn't a good football match, but when it isn't good and you're trying to force the pace then you have to be careful."

There were opportunities, of course, but then they were inevitable from a game in which the defenders performed almost as ineptly as their attacking colleagues. Sadly, painfully even, it was all too predictable that those chances were spurned.

Each side had their culpits, and perhaps the best contest of the afternoon was between those players lining up to produce the most comic miss. The honour fell to Quinn of Sunderland, but Dumitrescu showed a determination here he lacked in every other part of his game, by running the centre forward close.

Quinn is a willing worker and an obvious target given his totemic height. His presence, though, especially on afternoons like this when he is completely out of sorts, can bring out the worst in his team-mates. Presented with a beanstalk in the front line, they immediately assume a goose laying the golden egg of



Bowler, of West Ham, shoots for goal in a rare moment of excitement during the draw against Sunderland at Roker Park yesterday

a goal is at the top, and lapse into a long-range pursuit of the prize.

But Quinn was shackled comfortably by the equally lofty Rieper, and Sunderland wasted much of the afternoon coming to terms with that concept. When Quinn received the ball on the floor, it was more productive, until the final shot, of course.

His worst miss came when he was put clean through on the half-hour by Bracewell. With only the goalkeeper to beat from 12 yards, he stepped on the ball, fell to his knees and finished flapping on the floor like an eel plucked from the water.

It was not the only one. After seven minutes he failed to get serious contact on a header from close range when Gray delivered a fine cross from the left. In the second half he again failed to make contact when it seemed a simple matter of steering a cross by Scott into the corner of the net.

West Ham's problems were more of ego than tactics. They fielded a three-man forward line with Dumitrescu breaking quickly to support Futre and Raducioiu. That was the theory, anyway, but in practice they refused to pass to each other, preferring to bicker between themselves using expansive continental ges-

tures. On several occasions one of the gifted trio was released down the flanks, only to attempt an impossible dribble through the defensive maze rather than attempt to find a better placed colleague. Pity poor Hughes on the right flank, who was not even allowed to join in these little games.

Dumitrescu was the worst offender, and compounded the felony with some profligate finishing. He lifted a shot over the bar from close range in the first half, and then somehow contrived to steer a header the wrong side of the crossbar after Futre had, for once, chosen to flight a free kick

rather than shoot. It was from an impossible angle, mind you.

The game had draw, or bore depending on your perspective, written all over it. But Sunderland did come close to breaking the deadlock. After 55 minutes, Stewart turned in the box to latch onto a Quinn flick, only to see his mis-hit shot cleared from the line by Williamson. Worse still, they could have had a penalty when Jones, a second-half substitute, appeared to trip Ord in the box.

A goal would have been an injustice, a point, in fact, was probably too much reward for such lack of ambition on either

side. Reid urged caution as the game progressed, fearful of surrendering even the draw. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, had done so from the start, given, he said, his side's continuing injury problems. "Did it please you lot watching it?" Redknapp inquired mockingly afterwards. The answer around the country was a resounding no.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): 1. Lee - 4-0-0 - 0; 2. Brown - 4-0-0 - 0; 3. Ord - 4-0-0 - 0; 4. Gray - 4-0-0 - 0; 5. Stewart - 4-0-0 - 0; 6. Quinn - 4-0-0 - 0; 7. Rieper - 4-0-0 - 0; 8. Futre - 4-0-0 - 0; 9. Raducioiu - 4-0-0 - 0; 10. Dumitrescu - 4-0-0 - 0; 11. Bracewell - 4-0-0 - 0; 12. Jones - 4-0-0 - 0; 13. Hughes - 4-0-0 - 0; 14. Williamson - 4-0-0 - 0; 15. Scott - 4-0-0 - 0; 16. Gray - 4-0-0 - 0; 17. Stewart - 4-0-0 - 0; 18. Quinn - 4-0-0 - 0; 19. Rieper - 4-0-0 - 0; 20. Futre - 4-0-0 - 0; 21. Raducioiu - 4-0-0 - 0; 22. Dumitrescu - 4-0-0 - 0; 23. Bracewell - 4-0-0 - 0; 24. Jones - 4-0-0 - 0; 25. Hughes - 4-0-0 - 0; 26. Williamson - 4-0-0 - 0; 27. Scott - 4-0-0 - 0; 28. Gray - 4-0-0 - 0; 29. Stewart - 4-0-0 - 0; 30. Quinn - 4-0-0 - 0; 31. Rieper - 4-0-0 - 0; 32. Futre - 4-0-0 - 0; 33. Raducioiu - 4-0-0 - 0; 34. Dumitrescu - 4-0-0 - 0; 35. Bracewell - 4-0-0 - 0; 36. Jones - 4-0-0 - 0; 37. Hughes - 4-0-0 - 0; 38. Williamson - 4-0-0 - 0; 39. Scott - 4-0-0 - 0; 40. Gray - 4-0-0 - 0; 41. 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FOOTBALL: FAILURE TO COMPETE WITH BIG SPENDERS LEAVES FRANCIS WITH LITTLE IN RESERVE

Keegan sets the benchmark for Tottenham

NEVER mind the dog that did not bark in the night. What about the clubs that did not buy in the summer? North London clubs especially. Arsenal woke up only at the very last moment. And, for all Alan Sugar's supposed millions, Tottenham Hotspur's only purchase of note was the Danish midfielder player, Allan Nielsen.

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, was pleased with Nielsen's performance in the 2-1 defeat by Newcastle United at White Hart Lane on Saturday. "I liked what I saw. He tried to lob the goalkeeper [catastrophically, it should be said] and had a good shot saved. He's not afraid to tackle or be tackled."

Competent and capable enough, Nielsen is hardly a Mackay, a John White or a Blanchflower. Nor is he the creative midfielder player Tottenham still so badly need.

Shed a tear for Tottenham, on account of all those injuries? The cruel loss of Gary Mabbutt, Teddy Sheringham's injury, the fact that Chris Armstrong had to be severely strapped up, while Darren Anderton still has problems with his groin? The temptation is easily avoided.

Big clubs these days do not have to go as far as AC Milan, Internazionale or Juventus, buying almost anything that moves, or moves well, but strength in depth is essential and Tottenham have not got it. Besides Nielsen's miss, the ever erratic Rosenthal chose badly late in the game and should have shot rather than pass to Nielsen when he had a clear chance on his stronger left foot.

In the end, with Tottenham pressing desperately for the equaliser and increasingly open to counter-attacks, it was Ian Walker's goalkeeping that kept them afloat.

Far more confident and commanding with crosses than he was in midweek against Wimbledon, Walker won the admiration of Kevin

BRIAN GLANVILLE



At White Hart Lane

Keegan, the Newcastle manager: "Ian Walker was just outstanding for them. In the second half, he made three saves he wasn't entitled to make."

Walker did wonderfully well to thwart Peter Beardsley, clean through after a clever combination with Alan Shearer. Walker rushed out to dive and block the ball, which spun up to bounce off the crossbar.

In the last minute, when Beardsley, by this time running riot, released Clark, Walker turned that powerful shot aside, too.

The longer the game went on, the better Beardsley played. "I'd think, apart from myself," Keegan said, joking.



Nielsen: competent

ly, "he's the finest player in the club. I wouldn't say it was a mistake to leave him out early on. I told him we wanted to try things, but we needed his leadership, we needed his inspiration."

Tottenham took the lead after 28 minutes when the energetic Sinton beat a casual Watson, heading the ball down, moving up the left, finally crossing for the 18-year-old Rory Allen to score on the far post.

At that point one was wondering whether the hugely expensive strike force of Shearer and Les Ferdinand was not duplicating rather than asserting itself. But, eight minutes after the Tottenham goal, when Ginola for once hit a prompt left-foot cross rather than a delayed inswinger, Newcastle were level. Walker blocked the resulting deflection, and a shot by Shearer, but Ferdinand got a foot to the ball and in it went.

Missing a good opportunity set up for him by Lee and Shearer early in the second half, Ferdinand atoned on the hour. Smooth combination down the right by Lee and Shearer ended with Lee's cross and a thundering first-time right-footer by Ferdinand.

Keegan was pleased with his spearhead. "I do genuinely think the two will get better and better and, as I said, I thought there were signs today."

No room, then, for Faustino Asprilla, scorer of a hat-trick the previous weekend when Colombia thrashed Chile 4-1 in a World Cup qualifying match.

With his very different, India-rubber style, his long-legged elegance, you might think Asprilla could complement either Shearer or Ferdinand better than they do one another. And it is no surprise that Francis envies Newcastle's resources. "If you look at their sub-bench, it's absolutely frightening," he said.

"There must have been £30 million on the bench. One goes off and you think, great;



Armstrong, left, the Tottenham forward, tangles with Watson at White Hart Lane

and then Asprilla comes on."

Except that this time, just as when Parma won the European Cup Winners' Cup at Wembley, he did not.

Newcastle's defence still is not the equal of their attack. Players tend strangely to get in one another's way or to go absent, as they did when Nielsen had that glorious

chance only to bang it hastily over the bar.

Generous as always in victory, Keegan admitted that Tottenham's team was not the one Francis would ideally have liked to put out.

For his part, Francis said: "That was the best we've played over 90 minutes this season. Certainly we missed

Teddy Sheringham, but anybody would." Especially if there was not an Asprilla on the bench.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I. Walker — C. Wilson, D. Campbell, S. Campbell, D. Edwards — D. Anderton (sub: R. Fox, 77min), D. Howells, A. Nelson, A. Sinton — C. Armstrong, R. Allen (sub: R. Rosenthal, 77).

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P. Shearer — R. Lee, L. Clark, P. Beardsley, D. Ginola — L. Ferdinand, A. Shearer.

Referee: P. Dunne.

Learning to live with being a marked man

STEVE McMANAMAN



On how life has changed since Euro 96

THREE points, and the winning goal, so it was not a bad weekend for me. But against Southampton it was clear that they were determined to continue the trend that has already set in at Anfield this season. They came to defend, to frustrate us, and that seemed their only ambition.

Most teams who come to our place seem to adopt those tactics, so it should not have been a surprise. But it was, if only because Graeme Souness has never been a manager to do that sort of thing. In the first half at least, they were not interested in playing at all, and that is not his style.

Sunderland did it too, but it is something we will have to get used to — and me in particular. One of the features of our games this season has been the way in which I have been singled out for some tight man-to-man marking. It even happened in our away game at Coventry City, and against the Saints, Neil Maddison got so close that I could have jogged off the pitch and he would have followed.

It can be a bit strange, having people pestering me all over the pitch, definitely frustrating, but it is a fact of life now. I have been singled out because other teams seem to think that, if they can stop me, they stop Liverpool. It is a compliment, isn't it?

I am at this stage where I am regarded as one of the main threats, and I have to deal with man-to-man marking. It is a question of attitude and temperament. You have to regard it as a direct contest with your marker, try to take him to areas where he might be vulnerable.

I remember the first time it happened, against Queens Park Rangers a couple of years ago, when Rufus Brevett shadowed me everywhere. I swear he was in the bath afterwards. There is a story that Paul Ince was sold by Manchester United because I created a couple of goals when he was marking me. Fergie [Alex Ferguson] went ballistic at him in the dressing-room, but I reckon that was a plot by Ince — a big mate by the way — considering just how well he has done out of it. It does not

bother me, although I was a bit nervous when Vinnie Jones followed me against Wimbledon last season — I made sure I did not stand behind him!

I am not being arrogant, but it shows I have arrived. During the European championship I was singled out as England's danger man, which was strange. To have all these stars you are a bit in awe of saying good things about you is a difficult concept. Even Pele said I was England's best player. I got a bit of stick over that from my mates.

It is useful for me, this man-marking, because as I say, it is the next stage in my career. It definitely helps me to cope at international level, and in Europe as well. We have got a game this week against MyPa 47, of Finland, and I know I will get the same treatment. It is something I think English teams have got to cope with if we are going to do better in Europe.

Tactically, I think they [European teams] are more disciplined than us. English teams are maybe a bit too attack-minded. In Italy you rarely see the all-out assaults of the English game, and the Germans won the European championship, not because they were technically the best, but because they were superbly organised. It is changing though, as Euro 96 showed, and my confident (ish) prediction is that there will be English success in Europe this season.

Reading rule the roost over rivals

Reading 2
Oxford United 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT BARELY rates in the same class as those great Mersey-side or Manchester derbies, but, when Reading play Oxford United, it still generates a good deal of local bragging rights. At Elm Park yesterday, Reading drew first blood in a mostly bland, occasionally watchable and sometimes niggly Nationwide League first division encounter.

Meeting in the League for the first time since 1983, when Robert Maxwell provoked the hatred of thousands by trying to merge the clubs into Thames Valley Royals, neither side managed to suggest that Berkshire or Oxfordshire will have a representative in the FA Carling Premiership next season.

Perhaps it was because of the frenetic pace and underlying tension: perhaps it was the strange kick-off time of 1pm. Most probably, it was because the teams were simply not good enough to produce a spectacle fit for viewing from either outdoor seats or front-room armchairs.

At least the goals were of a decent calibre: one in each half and nicely executed by Martin Williams and Trevor Morley. The first, after 15 minutes, was neatly constructed by Gooding, Reading's joint player-manager, who delivered a left-wing cross to the far post.

Morley nodded it on down. Holsgrove touched it and Williams lobbed over Whitehead with a precise stretch of his right leg. It was just about merited, with Reading comfortably the more imaginative.

Oxford's lack of ambition was surprising, given the nature of the contest and with Reading having to play the inexperienced Bibbo in the goal because Mihaylov, the Bulgarian international, was suspended. Bibbo was rarely pended, apart from the test and, apart from the test, Oxford produced little of note. The second goal was worth watching, too, with Reading



Morley: second goal

tie against Bury, with Reading losing 2-0, because of torrential rain. Reading won the replay. Yesterday, he was hit on the nose by a misdirected pass from Hopkins and then had to retire hurt at half-time with an Achilles tendon problem. "I've had flood, fire and now this," he said ruefully.

Jimmy Quinn, Reading's other joint player-manager, was at least able to glean some satisfaction. "If we carry on like that, we will win more than we lose," he said. "We showed a lot of spirit." Spirit may be enough to stay in the first division but, having reached the Wembley play-off final only two seasons ago, Reading know rather more is required if they are to return. READING (4-4-2): S. Bibbo — A. Sinton, J. Hopkins, D. Widdowson, P. Beardsley — M. Williams (sub: M. Misker, 65min), M. Gooding (sub: D. Gooding, 65), P. Holsgrove, M. Quinn — L. Nogan, T. Morley (sub: J. Quinn, 90).

OXFORD UNITED (4-4-1-1): P. Whitehead — L. Robinson, M. Birt, P. Gilchrist, M. Ford — J. Broadbent (sub: M. Aldridge, 70), M. Gray, D. Smith (sub: M. Murphy, 45), S. Massey (sub: M. Angel, 45) — R. Ford — P. Moody.

Referee: J. Knibby (sub: B. Rice, 45).

Wigan willing to spend to emulate their big brother

Mark Hodgkinson
on a football club
trying to end a rugby
league monopoly

GLAMOUR and Wigan are two words that seldom appear in the same sentence. Two Georges — Formby and Orwell — have brought Wigan some renown but, otherwise, until now, the town's sporting grandeur has belonged exclusively to the thick-set chaps in red and white who play with a funny-shaped ball.

Finally, and with perfect timing as the rugby league club begins to falter somewhat, Wigan Athletic are in the ascendancy. They are top of the third division, their squad cost a cool £600,000, and they have players from exotic locations like Valencia, Ontario and Zaragoza.

If we are talking glamour, then by Nationwide League standards, Wigan Athletic are Peter Stringfellow and a Porsche full of super-models. Inevitably, Wigan have a benefactor and he is another kindly uncle with Blackburn connections. Dave Whelan, a player with Blackburn Rovers in the 1950s, has diverted much of his wealth as a sports shop entrepreneur into his beloved home town club.

Most notably, he has brought three Spaniards to Wigan — Isidro Diaz, Jesus Seba and Roberto Martinez — of whom only the latter habitually makes the team. He has put his name to six-figure

cheques to acquire Kevin Sharp from Leeds United, David Lowe from Leicester City and Graeme Jones from Doncaster Rovers — a club record signing at £150,000.

While finance has been provided to assemble a fine team, Wigan's Springfield Park ground has largely been left in a shabby state. Supporters of Scunthorpe United had to walk through weed-strewn crofts and past graffiti before standing on open terracing fringed by a hill behind the goal. The environs were complemented by their team's performance.

Throughout the game, Scunthorpe had more of the ball, but their passes landed at the elbows and knees of colts, while Wigan played it intelligently to feet. Wigan also had Graeme and Graham Jones and Lancashire respectively, two strikers with poise and accuracy.

The first goal came after 30 minutes, when Jones controlled a pass on the edge of the Scunthorpe penalty area,

prudently shifted his balance, and curled it past Samways. He then became provider, placing a pass delicately into the stride of Lancashire, who slotted it meticulously into the Scunthorpe net. Victory was ensured when Jones headed to Lowe and he stroked it into Lancashire's path for his second of the game.

Scunthorpe, all honourable graft and touches of sporadic skill from Francis and Eyre, had earlier lost their captain and defensive king pin, Alan Knill, with a leg injury. No fewer than seven people helped to carry him from the pitch.

John Deehan, the Wigan manager, afterwards singled out the contribution of the game's most accomplished player, Graeme Jones. "I can compare Graeme with a raw Alan Shearer, and that might not be too high a compliment. A few eyebrows were raised when we spent £150,000 within our own division, but Graeme is already proving we haven't frittered the chairman's money away," he said.

Wigan Athletic (4-3-3): Butler — R. Nitty, J. Pender, C. Goodall, G. Johnson — D. Lowe, R. Martinez, W. Bigness (sub: J. Seba, 65min) — G. Jones (sub: S. Whitaker, 80), G. Lancashire, J. Nitty.

SCUNTHORPE UNITED (5-3-2): M. Samways — C. Hogg, M. Sinton, A. Knill (sub: S. Hoggam, 20), R. Bradley, P. Wilson — P. Clarkson, D. D'Ama, M. Quinn — J. Francis, J. Eyre.

Referee: A. Bates.

Webb's attacking policy paying early dividends

Chesterfield 0
Brentford 2

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

EARLY days, as David Webb, their manager, admits, but Brentford have that look about them. Uncompromising central defenders, pacy forwards with an eye for goal, the odd slice of luck when it matters: and an enterprising approach — home and away.

Chesterfield will probably not be the last of Brentford's opponents surprised to find four forwards coming at them on their own grounds. "They will if you tell them," Webb said on Saturday. Robert Taylor and Carl Asaba, in the traditional striking roles, were joined by Nicky Forster and Marcus Bent, attacking at speed from wide positions.

"They are all goalscorers," Webb said. "We played that way at the end of last season, and I decided to carry on this year." The success of the strategy brought Webb the Nationwide League second division manager-of-the-month award for August, and September has also started well.

After hooking their place in the second round of the Coca-Cola Cup at Plymouth in midweek, Brentford began confidently at Chesterfield.

Absorbing the home side's opening salvos, they broke swiftly, Asaba twice going close before Forster's right wing run forced a corner, cleared only as far as Bates, who volleyed in through a crowd of players.

They nearly extended their lead when Bent's measured shot from distance rebounded

Doug Sharpe, the Swansea City chairman, is to resign from the board of the struggling Nationwide League third division club at the end of this month. Sharpe blames increasing business commitments rather than disappointing results for his decision.

from the angle of post and bar. But Chesterfield, fourth before the game, justified their position by putting the Brentford defence under pressure, which seemed to have paid off when referee Terence Lunt awarded a penalty for a push, which he alone had seen. Dearden, however, equal as ever to the few things to get past Bates and Asby, saved Williams's

low shot to his left at full stretch.

Weathering a further storm of crosses and corners, Brentford showed an impeccable sense of timing, breaking away in the last seconds of the first half to win a throw-in, nodded on for Forster to head home via a post.

The second half continued the theme of high balls from the home side and penetrating counter-attacks from the visitors. "It is a flexible system," Webb said. "When teams push you back, as Chesterfield did today, you have to try to hit them on the break; you can't take the gamble of leaving all four up. But there's no laboured build-up; we have a bit of pace, and a bit of football about us. I think there's more to come."

Unbeaten and top of the division, yet with virtually the same squad that finished fifteenth last season, "The lull before the storm," Webb said. CHESTERFIELD (3-4-3): W. Mercer — M. Williams, S. Dyer, L. Rogers (sub: A. Lomax, 75min) — J. Hewitt, J. Currie, P. Holland, M. Jones — C. Beaumont (sub: J. Howells, 45).

BRENTFORD (4-2-2-2): K. Dearden — G. Hurdle, J. Bates, B. Asby, I. Anderson — P. Smith, D. McGhee (sub: C. Hurdles, 65) — N. Forster, M. Bent — R. Taylor, C. Asaba.

Referee: T. Lunt.

England stumble in Spanish heat

By SARAH FORDE

THE England women's football team's bid to qualify for the European championship finals next June hangs in the first leg of their play-off against Spain 2-1 in Montilla yesterday. Their fate will now be decided in the second leg at Prenton Park, home of Tranmere Rovers — a much more hospitable environment for England than yesterday's venue — on September 29.

England arrived in southern Spain four days before the match to acclimatise in the hot, dry mountainous region, but the midday kick-off increased the extent of Spain's home advantage, with the

temperatures reaching 100F late in the second half. By that time, Spain were two up, having capitalised on England's defensive frailties for the first goal while the referee contributed to the second.

England had hardly had time to adjust to the dehydrating conditions before Spain seized the advantage in the seventh minute. A relatively innocuous cross was hoisted into the penalty area, the England defenders reacted slowly and failed to clear the danger and Maria Mar Prieto, the Spain centre forward, was allowed to loop her effort into the top corner.

Mar Prieto extended the Spain lead ten minutes into the second half and again

England's defence will shoulder some of the blame but the referee, Tiziana Calamosca, from Italy, also played a part. Calamosca, whose over-enthusiastic use of her whistle had continually disrupted the game, while providing a well-earned respite for the England players, for once lagged behind the action when England called to make a substitution while the ball was out of play. She failed to notice. Spain took a quick throw in and Mar Prieto was on hand to score with the England defenders scattered hopelessly out of position.

But England snatched a crucial away goal after 63 minutes when Debbie Bampton, the captain, re-

leased Tara Proctor on the right wing and her cross fell for Hope Powell to provide a clinical finish.

England almost equalised in the final minute when Rosa Serra, the Spain goalkeeper, who played for Arsenal Ladies last season, was penalised for wasting time. But Serra then made amends by saving Karen Burke's fierce free kick.

Ted Copeland, the England coach, remained optimistic about his team's chances of reaching next summer's finals. "We learnt a lot about the Spanish and that gives us great hope for the return leg," he said. "Spain defended well, but we created more chances and forced their keeper into some good saves."

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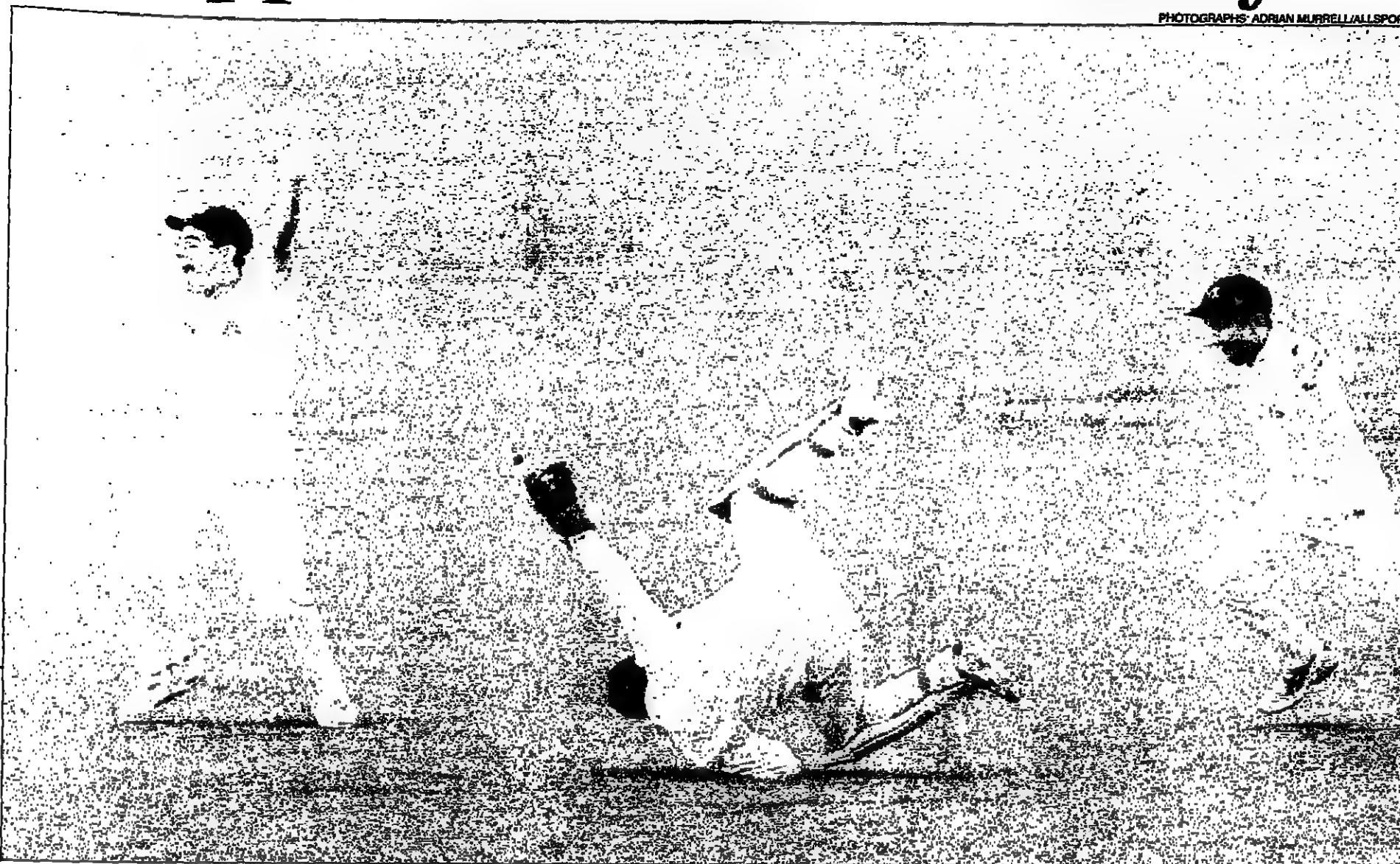
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CRICKET: NATWEST TROPHY WINNERS REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FIRST-CLASS RECORD AFTER REINFORCING ONE-DAY MASTERY

Chapple alters the final analysis

Lancashire aim to recruit Lillee as coach



Hegg pulls off a spectacular diving catch to remove Grayson, the Essex opening batsman, much to the delight of the slip fielders, Gallian, left, and Fairbrother

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (Essex won toss): Lancashire beat Essex by 129 runs

GRAHAM GOOCH is not a sentimental man but he does love Lord's with a passion, so if this was to be his last of many big days at the stately old place, he was entitled to a decent send-off. A few runs and a final acclamation from the pavilion seemed inevitable, an Essex victory the romantic ideal. Instead, the freakish events of the NatWest Trophy final on Saturday will cause Gooch nightmares into his retirement.

When Essex began their pursuit of a modest Lancashire score of 186, Gooch set himself to bat through the innings. After 20 overs it seemed he might succeed, though not at all in the imagined way. Gooch, indeed, was at risk of distinguishing himself by carrying his bat with an unbeaten ten.

This dubious achievement was denied him when he fell to Jason Gallian's first ball, leaving Essex a barely believable 33 for seven. Although what followed could laughably be termed a recovery — two men

did manage to make 11 — Essex were all out for 57 without even reaching the halfway mark of their 60 overs.

There was a stunned, bewildered silence among those who cared more for the cricket than for performing slurred versions of inane football songs. Essex, whose professional approach has never been doubted, had been bowled out for much the lowest total in any Lord's final and Lancashire had completed the double of Benson and Hedges and NatWest competitions in a manner they could scarcely credit.

In its way, this was as remarkable a final as there has been, as memorable as the 1993 game when Warwickshire successfully chased 322 to confound Sussex. It was, however, not remotely as fulfilling, leaving all but the committed Lancashire supporter with a feeling of being short-changed.

The pitch was unarguably poor. It is to be dug up shortly, and will not be mourned. Extravagant sideways movement of the sort bowlers of both sides extracted stifles the attraction of one-day cricket: inconsistent bounce is unacceptable in such a showpiece game. Ronnie Irani was bowled by a ball that struck his off stump less than halfway up and this spirited

cricketer, who had earlier bowled superbly against his native county, departed with a look of betrayal.

But if Mick Hunt, the MCC groundsman, slept poorly on Saturday night, his ears burning bright, he can be consoled that the majority of the wickets to fall, and the more consistent threat, came through an element beyond his control. The Duke balls — not, please note, the Readers which England, through nattyish regulations and a captain who kept losing the toss, had to play Pakistan — swung lavishly through the day.

It is, of course, simplistic to blame the conditions for everything. The bowlers still had to harness the help and, almost to a man, they did so with great skill. The game was so loaded against batting that there was a persuasive case for giving the man-of-the-match award to John Crawley, whose masterful 66 was 45 runs more than the next highest score.

Predictably, the award went instead to Glen Chapple, for whom the career graph has not risen to order since he made such a promising tour of India with England A two winters ago, aged 20. Still boyish, Chapple has had an unexceptional season in first-class cricket and he made an

unimpressive start to his spell with a long hop, which Irani cut contemptuously for four. Two balls later he bowled him with a grubber, and from then on it became the most spectacular spell of any cup final.

It was the twentieth over, Chapple's third, which terminated Essex's ambition. Darren Robinson, an opener by trade, was seduced into following an outswinger and edged it to slip. The next ball pitched on, and hit, off stump. It dismissed Robert Rollins, the last of Essex's serviceable batsmen, but it was such a sensational ball it would have dismissed anyone, even the moustachioed gentleman leaning inscrutably on his bat at the non-striker's end.

Just what was going through Gooch's head at that moment can only be imagined but when the first ball of the next over ended his vigil, the game was hurtling towards a rudely premature conclusion. Chapple finished it by taking two wickets in successive balls for the second time in the match and sprinting off with figures of six for 18, supplanting Joel Garner's six for 29 for Somerset in 1979 as the best in a September final.

Chapple immediately found himself being discussed as the answer to

England's bowling problems, which, of course, is fatuous. Selectorial heads have frequently been turned by less, four vacancies being secured by opportunism in this fixture, but the evidence of one limited-overs match in inequitable conditions ought not to be sufficient to promote Chapple's name when the selectors meet this evening. A second A tour, however, should certainly be his.

As often happens, the result owed as much to those with far less flattering figures. Uncertainty was created by Ian Austin, whose seven overs with the new ball cost only ten runs, and the three initial breaches were made by Peter Martin, none more significant than the dismissal of Nasser Hussain with a ball that left him late.

Lancashire became the first team since, ironically, Essex in 1986 to win this final after batting first. They cannot have believed they would do so at the change of innings but the perceived importance of the toss had clearly not faded them at the start of the day. While Ladbroke's made dramatic shifts in their odds before a ball was bowled, Mike Watkinson, the Lancashire captain, calmly confirmed that he would have batted first anyway.

Lancashire, having completed a second double of knockout cups, have immediately turned their minds towards repairing their dismal first-class record. This week they will decide whether to offer the job of coach, held until April by David Lloyd, to one of the greatest names in postwar cricket, Dennis Lillee.

Bob Bennett, the Lancashire chairman, has spoken on the phone to Lillee at his home in Perth, Western Australia, and will contact him again this week, when the former fast bowler has had the chance to consider fully Lancashire's initial approach. He would not come cheap but money is not a problem for a club which is embarrassed by its performance over the past 20 years in "proper" cricket.

Far from relieving the frustrations of members after another barren season in the championship, their extraordinary success on Saturday has added to it. Lancashire's glittering procession to Lord's on two fronts has alternated with some miserable cricket in the four-day game. The club committee has agreed to meet the members at Old Trafford on October 1 to discuss the team's performance.

By then, Lillee, 47, might have agreed to join them. After Graham Gooch declined to become their coach last month, Geoff Ogden, the club's cricket chairman, said: "We feel we need a strong personality in the dressing-room, somebody the players can look up to." The unspoken view is that an outsider is more likely to help the players release their talents.

Lillee, who took 355 wickets in 70 Tests for Australia, fulfils those requirements. Although Bobby Simpson, the recently deposed Australia coach, chose not to use his skills, they have transplanted favourably to India, where Lillee has organised coaching clinics for fast bowlers with some success. Furthermore, he is a "name", and it is felt his personality would fill what is, after all, a demanding job.

There are other matters for Lancashire to resolve, starting with the captaincy. Mike Watkinson, one of five men to have played in both their double teams, is immensely popular, not least because he carries onto the field all that he has. But he appears an isolated figure at Old Trafford, an odd position for a captain to be in, cut off from the doings of a committee to which he is accountable.

That committee is still undecided whether Watkinson should carry on for a fourth year, or whether the job should be entrusted to Wasim Akram, whose leadership of Pakistan since he regained the position last year has been so impressive. Wasim, one argument goes, could galvanise the dressing-room and, by keeping him sweet, with a benefit season to play for, they would retain his interest throughout the season.

And that, in a nutshell, is Lancashire's problem. Whether or not they care to admit it, the one-day competitions are so much part of the club's nervous system that the championship, the true measure of a team's ability, has been downgraded with every cup success. Lancashire have supplied England with a coach and captain and, in the past year, six other players, yet the only teams that they have beaten this year are Durham and Sussex. In the past 20 years they have finished in the top five of the championship on only three occasions, and they have not won it outright since 1934.

Lillee, should he come, will inherit a team rich in talent. Chapple, collared by Aravinda de Silva in the Benson and Hedges Cup final last year, has grown up a lot since. He bowled splendidly in the NatWest semi-final, giving the Yorkshire batsmen nothing to hit at the death, and, presented with a capricious pitch at Lord's, he took full advantage.

It is a remarkable achievement to win both one-day finals in the same year: to do so twice takes a special kind of expertise. Whether or not this team would have beaten the Lancashire side that won three successive Gillette Cups between 1970 and 1972 is a matter for debate. But it would certainly have given them a pretty good game.

MICHAEL HENDERSON



At Lord's

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The Lancashire fielders rush to congratulate Gallian, whose first ball had just accounted for Gooch

LORD'S SCOREBOARD

LANCASHIRE		ESSEX	
J E R Gallian	186 (87min, 81 balls, 3 fours)	G A Gooch	186 (87min, 55 balls, 1 four)
M A Atherton	11 (10min, 10 balls)	A P Grayson	6 (24min, 18 balls)
J P Crawley	66 (103min, 129 balls, 7 fours)	N Hussain	2 (8min, 6 balls)
N H Fairbrother	8 (15min, 10 balls, 1 four)	P P Pritchard	6 (12min, 12 balls, 1 four)
G D Lloyd	1 (5min, 4 balls)	R C Irani	5 (12min, 12 balls, 1 four)
M Watkinson	18 (35min, 31 balls, 2 fours)	D D J Robinson	2 (14min, 12 balls)
T W K Hegg	15 (44min, 33 balls, 1 four)	J R J Rodline	0 (11min, 1 ball)
I D Austin	16 (19min, 18 balls, 1 six, 1 four)	M C Iott	0 (11min, 4 balls)
G Chapple	6 (16min, 13 balls)	N F Williams	11 (31min, 19 balls, 1 four)
G Yates	9 (20min, 11 balls)	A P Cowan	11 (22min, 21 balls, 2 fours)
P J Martin	6 (8min, 11 balls)	P M Such	0 (1min, 1 ball)
Extras (b 4, lb 3, w 5, nb 4)	16	Extras (b 1, w 3)	4
Total (80 overs, 229min)	186	Total (27.2 overs, 120min)	57
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16 (Gallian 6), 2-48 (Crawley 11), 3-66 (Crawley 42), 4-68 (Crawley 41), 5-122 (Crawley 57), 6-139 (Hegg 6), 7-157 (Austin 11), 8-166 (Chapple 6), 9-175 (Yates 3).		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13 (Gooch 7), 2-17 (Gooch 6), 3-25 (Gooch 10), 4-31 (Gooch 10), 5-33 (Gooch 10), 6-33 (Gooch 10), 7-33 (Iott 0), 8-34 (Williams 0), 9-57 (Williams 11).	
BOWLING: Iott 12-2-29-1 (w 3, 3 fours; 5-2-13-1, 2-0-11-0), 2-0-5-0; Williams 7-4-0-39-0 (nb 2, w 1, 4 fours; 6-0-25-0, 1-0-14-0); Irani 12-6-25-3 (3 fours; one spell); Cowan 12-3-32-0 (w 1; 3 fours; 8-1-22-0, 4-1-11-0), Such 12-1-22-2 (4-0-0-0, 8-1-20-2); Grayson 4-2-0-24-3 (1 six, 1 four; 0-2-0-1-0, 2-0-15-2, 2-0-5-1).		BOWLING: Martin 10-2-17-3 (w 1, 2 fours, one spell); Austin 7-3-10-0 (one spell); Chapple 6-2-1-18-6 (w 1, 3 fours; one spell); Gallian 4-0-1-1-1 (w 1; 1 four; one spell).	
SCORING NOTES: Lunch: 90-4 (36 overs, 130min; Crawley 42, Watkinson 1).		SCORING NOTES: Tea: 46-0 (25 overs, 105min; Williams 2, Cowan 10).	
		Match award: G Chapple (adjudicator, D J Gower).	
		Umpires: D R Shepherd and P Wiley. Reserve umpire: A A Jones.	
		Compiled by Bill Frindall	



Chapple celebrates after dismissing Irani during his match-winning spell of six for 18 for Lancashire

NORTH

The NatWest Trophy.

Congratulations to Mike Watkinson and his men for taking the NatWest Trophy back to Old Trafford. Unfortunately, for Essex, it seems Lancashire's name was on it from the start.

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ATHLETICS: MAJORITY OF COMPETITORS ARE GIVEN TOO LITTLE NOTICE OF SOLIDARITY MEETING

IAAF'S Sarajevo venture hit by invitation blunder

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN MILAN

SO LATE was Primo Nebiolo, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) president, for the grand prix final banquet here on Saturday evening, that dinner started without him. He was too busy trying to avert a crisis.

Nebiolo had no option but to call an emergency meeting with the agents who represent the world's leading athletes to try to save his Sarajevo meeting in Sarajevo today from falling flat. In a project costing more than £1 million, financed mainly by the International Olympic Committee, the Kosovo stadium has been repaired from the scars of war, a new track laid, all 50,000 tickets allocated, journalists, officials and dignitaries invited from around the world, and a security operation mounted in an attempt to ensure the visiting IAAF family's safety. Oh, did anybody remember to book up the athletes?

One by one the grand prix champions had come off the track on Saturday afternoon to say, with only a few exceptions, that they were sorry but they would not be travelling on to Sarajevo. The explanations ranged from fears over safety, tiredness after a long season, injury, illness, but the most common was that the IAAF had been too late with its invitations.

Cathy Freeman, the 400 metres champion, still had not received hers. "The first we heard about going was when we got here last night," she said. Svetlana Masterkova, the 1,500 metres champion, and Merlene Ottey, the 100 metres champion, both said that they were asked too late to change their plans. Masterkova had a match for Russia this week. Ottey commitments back home. "How can I orga-

nise this at such late notice. I have a one-year-old daughter," Roberta Brunet, the 5,000 metres champion, said. "The first I knew about this was the day before yesterday." Gail Devers, the Olympic 100 metres champion, said Michael Johnson, the 400 metres champion, would not go because of concern for his safety. Derrick Adkins, the Olympic and grand prix 400 metres hurdles champion, and Dennis Mitchell, the grand prix 100 metres winner, have also declined on the safety issue.

Nebiolo's belated letter to athletes, which asks them to provide their services free in a gesture of humanitarianism, says: "We have received all the assurances for absolute safety of those travelling with the IAAF group to Sarajevo and back." After three and a half years under siege, the Dayton agreement brought peace to Bosnia last November.

Some athletes flew out yesterday with the main party and others may follow today as a result of Nebiolo's meetings with agents on Saturday night. He was not without champions of the cause from among his champions on the track. Hicham El Guerrouj,

who inflicted upon Noureddine Morceli his first defeat at the mile or 1,500 metres for four years to become the grand prix 1,500 metres champion for the season, and Patrik Sjöberg, the high jump champion, were the most vociferous.

"I am going to Sarajevo because I feel for the oppressed people," El Guerrouj said. "They have had a hard time and I feel my presence will help to bring attention to how much there is still to do there." Sjöberg has delayed a holiday to compete. "It is a good cause and not to go you need a good excuse," Sjöberg said. "To go on vacation with your brother is not a good excuse. I think everybody should go."

Sjöberg said he had taken his lead from Jonathan Edwards and Morceli, having heard they were going, but neither is. Edwards will not be making a giant leap for humanity on this occasion: he has a commercial engagement but has offered to put on coaching clinics in Sarajevo at a later date. Morceli attributed his defeat to flu and said he regretted he would have to withdraw.

Edwards won more in prize money from a day's work than any British athlete before him, earning \$150,000, two thirds of that for finishing second in the overall grand prix and one third for taking the triple jump title. Daniel Komen, from Kenya, secured the victory he needed in the 5,000 metres to deny Edwards the distinction of becoming the first Briton to win an overall grand prix title since the circuit began in 1985.

At least Nebiolo will have his two overall grand prix champions with him in Sarajevo. Komen is going, as is Ludmila Engquist, the 100 metres hurdler who won the women's title.



Johnson: not running



Edwards on his way to triple jump triumph that brought him riches in Milan

Clubs seek swift solution to a taxing problem

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



A rugby club across the land, they are tempted to use the local VAT inspector's head as a ball. At the 19th hole, the mere words Customs and Excise will make golfers choke on their gin and tonics. And, on the tennis court, it is not just the likes of John McEnroe who are shouting: "You cannot be serious." For an arbitrary ruling by the Customs and Excise on claiming back VAT looks like costing sports clubs up to £50 million.

What has happened is that sports clubs have been caught by a knee-jerk reaction by the Government to a particularly unpleasant court ruling. Earlier this year judges found that car leasing companies had been unfairly charged VAT for more than 20 years and ruled against Customs and Excise, a move that could have cost the Government many billions of pounds in repaid tax. To stop the massive outflow of money, the Government ruled that it will restrict tax refunds to only three years back. In other words, if your claim comes before 1993, forget it.

And that is just the problem with sports clubs. Most are not companies in the normal sense. They are set up so that any profit they make is immediately ploughed back into the club. A couple of years ago the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, changed the rules so that, if they did not pay any dividends to their shareholders, they did not have to pay any VAT on outside income, such as green fees, the hire of tennis courts or selling beer in the bar. What's more, Clarke decided to make the change retrospective, so clubs could claim back VAT paid after the beginning of 1990.

Of course many clubs were on to this like a shot. Richard Baldwin, a sports tax expert at Deloitte & Touche, the accountancy firm, estimates that up to £150 million of VAT was refunded, largely to golf clubs, who tend to have a few accountants hanging around to work out the claim. Then the shutters came down.

Many of the claims for back VAT were in the process of being assessed. Some tax experts accuse Customs and Excise of dragging its feet on some assessments, knowing that the change was on its way. One suspended claim has cost the leasing company £140 million. Baldwin says that tens of millions were outstanding in claims from sports clubs, and some estimates put the total figure as high as £50 million.

Many of the big accountancy firms are angry with the Government over the change, pointing out that it can claim back tax from people and companies for up to six years. There is a possibility of a court case to test whether the change is legal, but before the dust settles on this row, there may be another shake-up.

In recent years quite a lot of commercial sports clubs have been set up. Including the David Lloyd centres for tennis and a large number of golf clubs, funded by business. Some of these have been set up as non-profit making organisations but, because they are normally constituted companies, they cannot claim back VAT like sporting clubs.

It is expected that, probably in the Budget in November, the Chancellor might change the law to make a level playing field. The idea is that if a sporting club or company can show that it has not made any money over a number of years, it will be able to claim back the VAT it has paid. It should be a boost to golfers, rugby players and accountants across the country.

JASON NISSE

SPORTS LETTERS

Professionalism not a threat

From Mr Ces Lowry

Sir, Contrary to Mr Sean Enright (Sports Letters, September 2) I do not believe that professionalism is destroying rugby union. There are few sports left today which are not professional and few if any of them have been destroyed by professionalism. However, in most sports today we have a two-tier, or sometimes three-tier, system. The professional elite, the semi-professional middle and the amateur bottom.

No matter what happens at the top of rugby union the bottom end of the pyramid will continue to exist as it did before, the players will still enjoy their sport and will pay for the privilege. Where is the evidence that the entire fabric of school and junior rugby is threatened by professionalism? I have not seen it.

I played my rugby in the 1970s and I would dearly love to play the game with today's rules, where the game is faster with less emphasis on scrummaging and kicking for touch. Of course, rugby is a violent and dangerous sport, perhaps that is part of its attraction.

To say that rugby is almost impossible to referee is also false; the referee has the ultimate weapon in his hand, the whistle. He can control and dictate the behaviour of the players regardless of whether they are highly paid professionals or the junior club fourth team. It is, however, critical in the professional era that referees control the game with a firm hand and that they are supported by the governing body.

Of course, players are getting bigger and tackles are going in harder. This is an inevitable progression as sport gets more competitive and standards rise, but I see no

reason for this to set alarm bells ringing and to prophesy doom and gloom. Players are also fitter and are better equipped to withstand the knocks of professional rugby. It is critical that a reasonable proportion of the money coming into the game is channelled to the grass roots. If this does not happen, there is a risk that the sport may suffer in the long term.

Yours etc,
CES LOWRY,
60 Winchester Drive,
Heaton Norris,
Stockport, Cheshire.

From Mr D. J. Gilbody

Sir, It would appear that once again the Rugby Football Union and English Professional Rugby Union Clubs are settling on a course of self-destruction. Much has been written about their needs and wants but little attention has been given to the important role of junior club rugby.

There is an old adage in the game that the strength of your first team is dependent upon the strength of your weakest team. English rugby has flourished, partly because junior clubs have introduced more players to the game through their commitment to developing mini-rugby.

For those involved in junior rugby there is no financial reward. There is, however, a huge investment in terms of time and often financial support. The reward was, however, perhaps a trip to Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh, Paris or Twickenham.

If English rugby loses the support of junior club rugby, it does so at its peril.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. GILBODY,
20 Heatherdale Close,
Kingston upon Thames,
Surrey.

Quality the key to training

From Mr K. P. O'Connor

Sir, "Bryant's Eye" (August 29) correctly argued that professional football can learn much from the fitness regimes of athletes and from sports science in general. However, it is simplistic to conclude that the major lesson from athletics is that footballers must train harder for improved fitness.

First, athletes do train ferociously hard, but many arrived in Atlanta nursing injuries, and there is not even a contact sport. Professional sport is littered with over-use injuries and, in separate articles (August 31), Steve McManaman and Rob Hughes vividly described those which already arise in football.

Second, training harder does not necessarily mean training more. Low-volume, high-quality training has served many athletes well, including Sebastian Coe.

Third, and most important, footballers play two, sometimes three, matches each week. During an athlete's own competition period the advice of many coaches is to train lightly between races, since the races themselves bring the athletes up to, and keep them at, peak fitness levels.

Sports have much to learn from each other, but the lessons are more complicated.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN O'CONNOR,
Valley Bach, Valley,
Anglesey, North Wales.

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TENNIS: NEW TOURNAMENT SHOULD BENEFIT HOME-GROWN PLAYERS

Top seeds welcome security of clay

By ALEX RAMSAY

IT IS NOT quite a million miles from Flushing Meadows to Bournemouth, it just seems like it. Today, the men who were last seen playing their trade at the US Open will be back at work on the ATP Tour, with Bournemouth the next stop on the road. And where New York offers hustle, bustle, noise and grime, Bournemouth provides a little haven of tranquility. For Alberto Costa and Felix Mantilla, the top seeds, it also offers the security of a familiar surface — clay.

The Bournemouth International Open is a newcomer to the British tennis circuit. Bought by the Lawn Tennis Association last year to replace the ailing Brighton women's indoor event, it has been planned as the grand finale to a four-month summer season that began with the lead-up to Wimbledon, peaked with a rain-soaked Grand Slam and continued with a series of satellite and challenger events once Tim Henman had left SW19.

On paper, Bournemouth looks like a good idea. For its first outing, the tournament has attracted a good field, Costa, Mantilla, Andrei Medvedev and Sergi Bruguera all know their stuff on clay. Selling this concept to the public is another matter, however. Brought up to recognise the big names of Wimbledon, the watching public are not so familiar with the clay court exponents and Costa's value at the box office is suspect. So far the tickets for the semi-finals and finals are only three quarters sold and everyone involved is hoping the September weather holds to encourage a few more people to part with their money in the early part of the week.

No matter. The LTA and the tournament director, John Reaver, think they have backed a winner. "The timing and the surface is almost perfect for us," Reaver said. "We have never had a clay court tournament here before yet the LTA training department tell us that it is the perfect surface to train the young players. This tournament gives them a goal to aim for. We are unique in this country because we play so much on grass, but it can leave us with a generation of players who can play on grass and nothing else."

And with the men's game in Britain basking in the reflected glory of Henman's achievements this summer, Bournemouth provides a chance for

the players to earn money and computer points on home soil. Everyone apart from Henman, that is. After 14 weeks on the road the wear and tear is beginning to show and he has pulled out with a hamstring injury.

That leaves Rusedski, the No 6 seed, as the top Briton, leading a team of five locals into the fray. Rusedski begins his campaign tomorrow against Joao Cunha-Silva, the Portuguese Davis Cup player and world No 138. Luke Milligan, however, has drawn the shortest straw. He made his way through the qualifi-

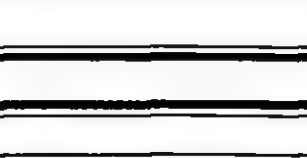
ing tournament only to draw Mantilla, from Spain, the No 2 seed ranked 16 in the world, in the first round.

Martin Lee, the world junior No 1, has also not a tough first-round draw. This is his second senior ATP event — he tested the water briefly at Queen's — and faces Guillermo Perez-Roldan from Argentina. Perez-Roldan may have his best years behind him, but he was once ranked in the top 20 and is at his happiest on a clay court.

But for Reaver, the most important aspect of Bournemouth is the chance to educate the coaches and the young players on the value of clay courts, even if the public may take a little more persuading. "We have more than 300 coaches coming from around the country," he said. "This is their first chance to see, close up, top players playing on clay at this level. That is going to be useful in the long run."

"In the past we had the British hardcourt championships here, with people like Laver and Drobny. From my point of view as a tournament director, I know we are getting there. Even the lady in the fish and chip shop had heard about the tournament — when you hear that, you know you are winning."

Rusedski: leads British contingent



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CHARITY COMMISSION

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, 100, 101 & 102, Strand, London WC2R 2EJ. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charity Commission for England and Wales has received an application for the registration of the Church of the Holy Trinity as a charity under the Charities Act 1960. The Commission is now considering the application and will publish a notice of its decision in the London Gazette.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Insolvency Act 1986 (the "Act") has been applied to the above named company. The company is now in liquidation and the liquidator is Mr. J. H. Smith, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The liquidator is now accepting claims against the company and is also responsible for the distribution of the assets of the company.

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Experiment fails

From Mr Roy Pearson

Sir, I must disagree with Mr Anthony Benn's remark about "the success of the rugby league Super League" (Sports Letters, September 2). There are thousands of dissenters who believe that the game was sold out to television.

The two best supported clubs for decades, Wigan and Leeds, have seen their gates fall dramatically; the two Premiership semi-finals did not attract 20,000 spectators to attract them. Why? Because between them, they support many rugby league supporters who do not consider it to be a summer game.

We have been robbed of a series against the Australians, and two of the world's best players, Connolly and Robinson, are denied a place on the replacement tour, which is taking place because of television in-lighting. The administrators should be told we have watched the experiment, it didn't work, and could we please have our game back.

Yours faithfully,
ROY PEARSON,
42 Brignall Croft, Leeds 9.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Great courses

From Mr John Green

Sir, John Hopkins (August 30) rightly credits Colonel H. V. Hotchkin with the design and construction of Woodhall Spa golf course. Less well known is his work in designing and building one of the great courses in South Africa: Humewood near Port Elizabeth.

I had the pleasure of playing Humewood in 1942 in the company of Bobby Locke who

rated it among the best. Humewood is Woodhall by the sea. Those who know how difficult Woodhall can be on a still day can well visualise the effect of a strong sea breeze blowing across the course.

Donald Stead's new course may be constructed to suit the modern game, but many will still regard Woodhall as one of the finest inland courses in the country.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GREEN,
65 Wood Vale, N10.

RUGBY UNION: CHAMPIONS PUNISHED FOR HIGH PENALTY COUNT AND FAILURE TO CAPITALISE ON STAND-OFF HALF'S IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY

Catt breaks through but Bath falter

Leicester 28
Bath 25

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the England management, in a spirit of optimism, selects another training squad this week, in which position will Mike Catt be considered? He is the incumbent at full back but in this tempestuous season he is dominating the position of stand-off half, which many good judges believe to be his better long-term option.

Twice England have picked him in the No 10 jersey and twice they have hastily returned him to the back, worried by the inconsistency of his line kicking and his inability to organise a pattern of play for a very structured side. Set against that is his vision, his capacity to see and exploit space and, this season, his searing acceleration, which twice left the Leicester defence — admittedly less than last season — for dead.

Moreover, his play is maturing in a manner which suggests that he can now dominate a game tactically; perhaps it is for England to move their game towards the way Catt plays, rather than vice versa, and their international calendar gives them a perfect opportunity to do so. Not only that, Fran Cotton was at Welford Road on Saturday on British Isles business, and when he and his Lions colleagues sit down this week to plot the playing strate-

gy for the tour to South Africa next summer, Catt will surely feature in their thoughts.

Catt scored one try and made another for the 1996 champions, and the result only served to emphasise the essential unfairness of sport. Not that the Leicesterians who made up most of the 10,000 crowd will consider it anything more than the most poetic of justices — a penalty try in the dying moments robbed them of the Pilkington Cup at Twickenham last May and here a penalty try at the death gave them victory against their closest rivals.

It sent Bob Dwyer home to Australia yesterday a far happier man than defeat by Saracens the previous Saturday had left him. Dwyer, the Leicester coach, will spend the next month tying up loose business ends in Sydney but the Australian influence will not be lost during that time. Duncan Hall, capped 15 times at lock in the early 1980s and now regarded as one of the most promising coaches in Queensland, is to work in Leicester as a development officer and will help to coach the pack.

That same pack will hail Leicester out as they search for a more inventive midfield, but neither Dwyer nor Hall is impressed by the "game within a game" played out by the front row which is so prominent a feature of English rugby and never more than when Leicester meet Bath. They consider the game to be played by 15, not by three, and if the platform is destroyed by



Catt creates Bath's second try with a deft kick ahead. The stand-off half followed up to score himself. Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

the scrum going up and down and round and round, they will change it.

In the meantime, Dwyer estimates that it will be another three months before he can establish the cornerstone of his new midfield and, whether it be Potter or Greenwood, Malone or Jones, Austin or the younger Liley, it may be another 18 months before the Leicester back division plays with the fluency and technique he seeks.

Healey, too, will be a significant influence at scrum half if he is allowed to run the game. The modern game demands

that the half back receives that chance and Healey is cocky enough to want it, such is his potential influence that Bath spent last week preparing their scrum to reduce his opportunities on the break. They expected Leicester to counter their wheeling formations and were surprised when they did not, or could not.

Thus Catt was the dominating character behind the scrum and if Bath's finishing had matched the power of breaks made by him, by de Glanville and Adebayo, they would not have been left in a

position to lose the game in injury time. "Catt is the best fly half in the country," John Hall, who does not equivocate, said. The Bath director of rugby was less than impressed with the penalty count against his team but he enjoyed its open passages of play. "Having seen the rugby we can play, I think we will destroy some sides," he added.

Yet the penalties ground them down. John Liley equalled the league record by kicking seven out of eight, four in the first half when Leicester led 12-6 and the Bath lineup struggled desperately

against Leicester's competence and Adams' inaccurate throwing. But within four minutes, Nicol had crept over for the first try and Catt, breaking clean and chipping over the full back, held off Greenwood's pursuit.

Leicester resumed the lead, only to lose it once more when Bath carried play down the right and Catt fired out a wide pass to Guscott, whose angle carried him through a despairing defence with only eight minutes remaining. But the home forwards were not to be denied. They and Healey ran three penalties at Bath,

who failed to retreat quickly enough. Miller plunged for the line and Ubbogu's dive over the top gave Ed Morrison little choice than to award the penalty try which sent the Leicester players and crowd into delirious joy.

SCORERS: Leicester: Try: penalty try. Conversion: Liley. Penalty goals: Liley (7). Bath: Try: Nicol. Conversion: Adams. Goals: Adams (2). Penalty goals: Liley (2). LEICESTER: J. Liley, S. Haden, S. Poley, V. Greenwood, R. Underwood, N. Malone, A. Healey, G. Rowntree, R. Cockrell, D. Garside, J. Wells, M. Johnson, M. Poole, E. Miller, W. Johnson. BATH: J. Catt, J. Sargeant, M. de Glanville, J. Guscott, A. Adebayo, M. Carr, A. Nicol, D. Hall, G. Adams, V. Ubbogu, R. Wiggins, M. Haug, N. Redman, A. Robinson, E. Fegan. Referee: S. Mansson (Bristol)

Best puts damper on easy victory

West Hartlepool 21
Harlequins 41

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT IS difficult to judge how good the free-scoring Harlequins are. Last week, a virtual Gloucester second XV made a calculated surrender to them, and on Saturday a second-rate West Hartlepool contributed heavily to their own downfall. To put it mildly, the fixture list is benevolent to Harlequins: they avoid Bath and Leicester until December.

When the sum of their many talented parts adds up they will be some team. Until then, Dick Best, the club's director of rugby, will have strong words. "Better sides would have killed us," he said through clenched teeth. "We're demanding excellence and that was the furthest thing from it."

Best is hoping for better things from Harlequins' two short-term rugby league acquisitions, Robbie Paul and Gary Connolly, who make their debuts on Wednesday in the Anglo-Welsh Cup against Cardiff. "Robbie will set this game alight. He has the magic and that New Zealand will win. Gary is a strong, forthright runner. We're looking to learn from these guys and their professionalism," he said.

Not that 116 points in their opening two Courage Clubs Championship games are to be sniffed at. The fact that West presented them with so many scoring opportunities and Harlequins, not withstanding some pedantic refereeing, failed to curb their indiscipline, was less encouraging. Played two, won two, is what matters and Best is promising something altogether more coherent for the visit of London Irish on Saturday.

It is 17 months since West last won a league match. Nowadays, their side is as cosmopolitan as the one down the A19 at Middlesbrough Football Club. Rather than the samba *Land of My Fathers* is a more apt chorus for their seven Welsh hired hands, plus two New Zealanders, an Australian and a Scotsman. For a meagre 2,500 crowd, many faces were new but the story depressingly familiar.

The tight five for West is their biggest problem. Their scrum was Catherine-wheeled about the pitch. In the back row, Morgan's creative contribution and the powerful running of lions showed that all is not entirely gloom and two well-taken tries by Stephen John reflected the home side's dominance of the last quarter.

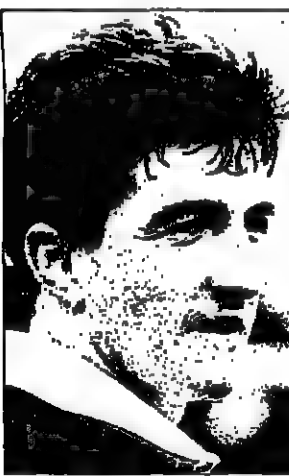
The glorious sight of Cabannes in full flow furnishing Mensah with the pick of the visitors' six tries, and of Whitelock, the West prop, face down and exhausted during his scrummaging lesson from Leonard typified a match of two Harlequins halves, one acceptable and the other sub-standard.

Challinor's two tries took him past 700 points in his six-year Harlequins career. On his debut, Luger, the beneficiary of West's efforts to open the game up in the second half, also touched down twice and Walshe claimed another. A thumping might have become a trouncing if Harlequins had kept their minds on the job and West not got their eye on the ball.

Will Carling answered the taunts of *West Edition*, a West Hartlepool fanzine, which queried whether the former England captain would turn out at Brierton Lane for the first time — speculating that the climate might be too cold for him — by landing 11 points in his new place-kicking role. Perhaps the editor forgot that Carling learnt his rugby further north, in Durham.

SCORERS: West Hartlepool: Try: S. John (2). Conversion: C. John. Penalty goals: C. John (2). Harlequins: Try: Challinor (2), Luger (2), Mensah, Walshe. Conversion: Carling (4). Penalty goals: Carling (2). WEST HARTLEPOOL: M. Sale, M. Wood, J. Connolly, M. Ring, S. John, C. John, M. Richards, W. De Jonge, A. Peacock, P. Whellock, D. Mitchell, C. Murphy, K. Mosley, J. Jones, J. Morgan. Conversion: replaced by J. Stabler (2 tries). Harlequins: Try: S. John (2), Luger (2), Mensah (2), Walshe (2). Conversion: replaced by J. Stabler (2 tries). Referee: S. Pacey (Yorkshire)

Jones makes powerful case for Bristol's forward thinking



Jones: perfect signing

Bristol 38
Orrell 10

By PETER BILLS

RUGBY is back and the pleasure with it, for all its present problems off the field. The simple joys of this sport remain so enchanting, like chewing the cud in the golden late-afternoon sunshine at the Memorial Ground with two esteemed Welsh scrum halves of years gone by.

We expressed mutual sadness at the loss this week of a great friend, Clem Thomas, that grand man of Welsh rugby. But once the conversa-

tion had turned to Bristol, Clive Rowlands — D.C.T. Rowlands of Pontypool and Wales circa 1963-65 — and Robert Jones of Swansea and Wales from 1986 until almost present times, began to lick their collective lips.

Both men have been scrum halves well able to exploit a dominant pack in front of them. And for Jones, now by recruit a Bristolian, there was the anticipation of a new challenge in English rugby behind a pack of forwards that could become one of the best in the land.

"Coming here has been wonderful for me," he said. "I am impressed by the whole

club and what they want to do. With the promise of the forwards especially, and the potential outside the scrum, we could really achieve something."

Rowlands, that sage old counsellor, was equally impressed with Bristol's strong pack but correctly adjudged: "Now they will need to add a little more pace. If they do that they will become formidable."

The sight of Jones at a Courage League game reflected the welcome infiltration of high-class players from other lands into the English game. They have their detractors, but to close one's doors is to close one's mind. Players such

as Jones can but enhance the skills of those around them. And watching master craftsmen at work is always a delight.

Jones, who was supported by a little travelling army of supporters from Bridgend, complete with their giant Welsh dragon flag, was a perfect signing for Bristol. Behind this powerful pack, they needed a wise old head. Jones is that and a great deal more, and the young Ireland fly half, Paul Burke, outside him could not have hoped for a finer tutor.

Shaw, happily restored to fitness, and Adams were dominant in the lineouts; the front

row was always combative and powerful and Corry, Corkery and Rollitt were superior in the loose. Only uncertain finishing outside the scrum cost Bristol a 50-point win.

They so dominated the opening half-hour that Burke had seven penalty kicks at goal. He could land only three of his attempts and, when Botica replied, a 9-3 lead seemed absurd given the mastery of Bristol. The low driving positions of their forwards in the loose, particularly, was technically most impressive.

The tries did come, eventually, against an outplayed Orrell side for whom one

fears this winter. Tuiamala apart, they offered little threat.

With tries by Breeze, Hull, twice, and a penalty try allied to Burke's 18-point kicking tally, Bristol won easily. Sterner tests await but the cobwebs are being blown away at the Memorial Ground.

SCORERS: Bristol: Try: Hull (2), Breeze, penalty try. Conversion: Burke (3). Penalty goals: Burke (14). Orrell: Try: Botica. Conversion: Botica. Penalty goal: Botica. BRISTOL: P. Hull, B. Breeze, F. Waters, M. Dorney, D. Tuiamala, S. Jones, A. Shaw, P. Adams, D. Corkery, E. Rollitt. ORRELL: R. Hinchmough, J. Naylor, D. Lyon, J. Tuiamala, N. Hodge, F. Botica, S. Coker, J. Connolly, M. Scott, S. Turner, A. Bennett, C. Quinn, P. O'Neil, P. Angelsen, A. McFarlane. Harlequins replaced by P. Turner, 45 min. Referee: A. Pacey (Somerset)

Irish revel in tale of the unexpected

London Irish 34
Northampton 21

By ALISON KEVYN

IT HAD to come to an end soon, that phenomenal run from last season in which Northampton not only won every game, but also completely annihilated all comers — piling on points in try-scoring spectacles and delivering record-breaking scorelines week after week. But who would have thought that London Irish, that team so suffused with general benevolence, would be the side to stop them in their tracks? Bath, sure, Leicester, yes. But London Irish?

And not only did the exiles beat Northampton, the team that trounced them in the Courage League second division last year, but they won the match in such style that it was quite bewitching to watch. The two first division newcomers produced a cracking 15-man contest at a relentless pace.

The match unfolded rather like a good book: devilishly complicated with twists and turns throughout the plot. Quite absorbing, but entirely unpredictable.

London Irish looked invigorated. Benefiting enormously from a determined coaching team led by Clive Woodward, undoubtedly the hero of the piece. Coaching sessions have started to feature guest performances from former international Willie Anderson and sports scientists from St Mary's College have been adding their weight to the training sessions.

It is from this platform that London Irish are so effectively able to launch their new-look

team. The side now features nine players with international prospects who were tempted across the Irish Sea thanks to an injection of sponsorship money from Guinness, and on Saturday they were worth every penny.

Victor Costello battled furiously with Tim Rodder at the base of the scrum, and David Humphreys came back from last week's disappointing performance to land seven out of his eight kicks.

Both Justin Bishop and Rob Henderson looked dangerous in the midfield, the former particularly useful in counter-attacks.

Irish got off to a good start with a penalty in the first minute before Northampton kicked into action, and two converted tries in as many minutes for Rodder and Dods saw them 14-3 up and looking like they were about to put 50 points on the home side. But Irish were not dismayed. With just six minutes of the half left, O'Kelly scored a pushover try, which Humphreys converted before kicking a penalty to take the teams to 14-13 at the break.

Northampton came back in the second half to regain control with a converted penalty try, then Irish took over. Costello and Woods scored tries, and Humphreys converted both to take his points' tally to 19.

SCORERS: London Irish: Try: O'Kelly, Costello, Woods. Conversion: Humphreys (2). Penalty goals: Humphreys (2). Dropped goal: Humphreys. Northampton: Try: Rodder. Dods, penalty try. Conversion: Dods (1). LONDON IRISH: C. O'Kelly, J. Bishop, R. Henderson, P. Flood, N. Woods, D. Humphreys, J. Evans, L. Moore, R. Kallum, G. Ralph, J. Davidson, G. Fisher, M. O'Kelly, N. Richardson, V. Costello. NORTHAMPTON: N. Best, J. Hunter, J. Bell, M. Allen, M. Dods, G. Townsend, M. Dawson, M. Volland, A. Clarke, M. Lewis, D. McCann, S. Fook, D. Martin, A. Pountney, T. Rodder. Fook replaced by J. Wright (65 min). Referee: S. Lander (Leeds)

Lacklustre Gloucester fail to paper over the cracks

Gloucester 12
Sale 16

By BRYAN STILES

GLOUCESTER lived up to their reputation of being the sleeping giants of West Country rugby in this sleep-inducing muddle of a match at Kingsholm. While they slumbered, Sale picked up two valuable Courage Clubs Championship away points to further their ambition of finishing in the leading four.

Where was the famed passion and fire that used to be the hallmark of a Gloucester team? The main stand was far from full and there were bare patches around the terracing on a glorious day for rugby, suggesting that some supporters knew what to expect if they turned up. They are a little lot at Gloucester, but they know their rugby.

Richard Hill, the director of coaching, was in fact surprised so many had put in an appearance after the debacle of the previous Saturday, when they opened the season with a deliberately weakened team against Harlequins and paid a devastating price, losing 75-19. Hill wanted to protect his first-team players and keep them fresh for taking on teams they had a chance of beating.

Sale was one of the teams on Hill's "must-win" list so his strategy has been exposed already. "It was very disappointing," Hill said. "We made far too many mistakes. Normally we do well in the lineouts and with driving mauls, but today we didn't. We also split lots of ball in attack. Players will have to regain the respect of the fans." Hill hopes that the pattern

of the club's season will follow that of last year. He joined the club in October and the team went through a lean spell before the victories began to flow. He is hoping that his young team will produce a repeat pattern.

The trouble is that he has not got the time to allow the youngsters to blossom gradually; he needs them to mature quickly and haul in league points. He has reason to be happy about the potential of his new full back, Chris



Morris enjoying new lease of life with Sale

Carling, playing his first game after joining from Exeter. He produced some telling moves, particularly in attack.

Sale were delighted with their victory by one goal and three penalty goals to four penalty goals. They had the former Wales international centre John Devereux making his first appearance since joining from Widnes rugby league club.

The departure through injury in the seventh minute of his fellow centre, Biri, scuppered

many of their midfield plans and Sale were reduced to using Devereux as a crash ball bludgeon, to which Gloucester soon got wise. He was often wrapped up by three defenders and must have wished for a more constructive return to rugby union after an absence of seven years.

Devil Morris, the former England scrum half, is having a new lease of life with Sale and, by the second half, was darting through half gaps in defence that Gloucester thought they had plugged. Outside him, Jos Baxendell, although he showed some neat touches, has a long way to go before he will contribute to the Sale cause like Paul Turner, his predecessor, did.

More, too, was expected of Mark Mapletto, his opposite number. His goal kicking and touch finding were good, but supporters were expecting to see more of the fine running he has shown in the past.

Mapletto kicked two penalties and Griffin replied in kind to leave the score 6-6 at the interval. Mapletto kicked two more in the second half but Sale scored an all-important try when Baxendell set off on a kick and charge to set up a position in the corner that brought a touchdown for Diamond. Griffin converted from the touchline and, in injury time, added another penalty from wide out to put the seal on victory.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Penalty goals: Mapletto (4). Sale: Try: Diamond. Conversion: Griffin. Penalty goals: Griffin (2). GLOUCESTER: C. Carling, E. Anderson, A. Givens, M. Roberts, M. Lloyd, M. Mapletto, S. Bontor, J. Woods, P. Givens, A. Dawson, P. Glanville, R. Fisher, D. Smith, S. Edwards, J. King, P. Hall. Temporary replacement for Roberts (64-75). SALE: J. Morris, D. Ross, J. Devereux, M. Biri, T. Biri, J. Baxendell, D. Morris, P. Smith, S. Diamond, A. Smith, D. O'Grady, J. Fowler, G. Biddell, A. Morris, C. Vyvyan. Biri replaced by Griffin (7 min). Referee: A. Spradbury (Bristol)

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS

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Sighs on Saturday: the rallying cries of the football clientele at Loftus Road failed to rouse Queens Park Rangers into significant action

By DAVID HANDS
UGLY CORRESPONDENT

Lynagh feels the weight of a Harlequins tackle

The outstanding feature of that period was the calm maturity of King. The youngster is only two matches into his first season of first-division rugby but he has that essential quality — time — that every class player has. He keeps defences on tenterhooks and, for so slight a player, stands in the tackle well; he also decorated his display with an early dropped goal on the run. It took his colleagues far longer to find their cohesion.

Full results and league tables 38

Hill, A Diprose Lynagh replaced by D
Edwards (29 man) Green replaced by D
Zaltzman (68) Wallace replaced by D
Olney (76)
Referee: B Campbell (Yorkshire)

Cardiff weaknesses exposed as Llanelli feast on five tries

BY GERALD DAVIES

Others might point out that Cardiff were reduced to 14 players when, in the 37th minute, Jason Hewlett was sent off. A widespread fracas in the 25th minute led to the referee showing a yellow card to

Taylor: stamping incident

Griffiths (53). S Jones replaced by T Davies (45); J Williams replaced by C Wyth (55)
Referee: W Bevan (Clydach)

England's best relish Welsh test

While the Courage Clubs Championship leads on to Europe and creates a competitive pressure of its own, the Anglo-Welsh Cup stands by itself. "We are all keen that it should be an ultra-competitive spectacle," Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, said, and given that his club had been due to play Pontypridd in a Charity Shield-style game last month, it will also be the chance to make up some lost ground.

Richmond may have reason to rue lack of killer instinct

BY NICOLAS ANDREWS

"We let ourselves down and have

Eves it was who tidied up after Ian Patten had won a lineout in the 73rd minute. He passed to Dawson and the scrum half weaved his way over for the Coventry try. Harris

Robinson, A Smallwood; J Hams, A Dawson, R
Hardwick, D Addleton, M Crane, J Horrobin, D
Grewcock, A Blackmore, D Eves, I Patten
RICHMOND: S Mason; M Hulton, T Whitford, S
Correll, A Boyd, A Davies, A Moore; D McFarland,
B Moore, D Crompton, L Jones, C Quimnel, R
West, B Clarke, S Quimnel



Taylor stamping incident



Lynagh feels the weight of a Harlequins tackle

RACING

Urbina given classic vote of confidence

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A YOUNG Spaniard who visited Newmarket for a working holiday in 1994 and decided to stay has been given the chance of achieving classic glory in the St Leger at Doncaster on Saturday.

Oscar Urbina will ride the Lusa Cumani-trained Mons, 7-2 joint-favourite with Dushyantor for the season's final classic, after making a name for himself this summer with 24 winners.

Urbina, 24, rode 94 winners in Spain and was champion apprentice there two seasons running before visiting England with the intention of staying "a month or two".

He liked what he found and despite having only three rides, without success, in his first season Urbina asked Cumani if he could stay on.

Last year, he had three winners from 30 rides, but this term he has come into his own.

Cumani said yesterday: "He has got very good tactical strength and understands about pace. Horses run for him and he seems to have a good strategy during races."

"In conjunction with the owners of Mons, we discussed who would ride yesterday and I gave them all the options. They decided they would be very happy with Oscar."

"Mons is well and he has got the advantage of being a relatively fresh horse. He had a long break after the Classic Trial at Sandown in April before having two prep races for the St Leger, both of which were satisfactory without being resounding successes."

Mons was an encouraging fourth to St Mawes in the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood before finishing half a length behind Dushyantor in the

Great Voltigeur Stakes at York last month.

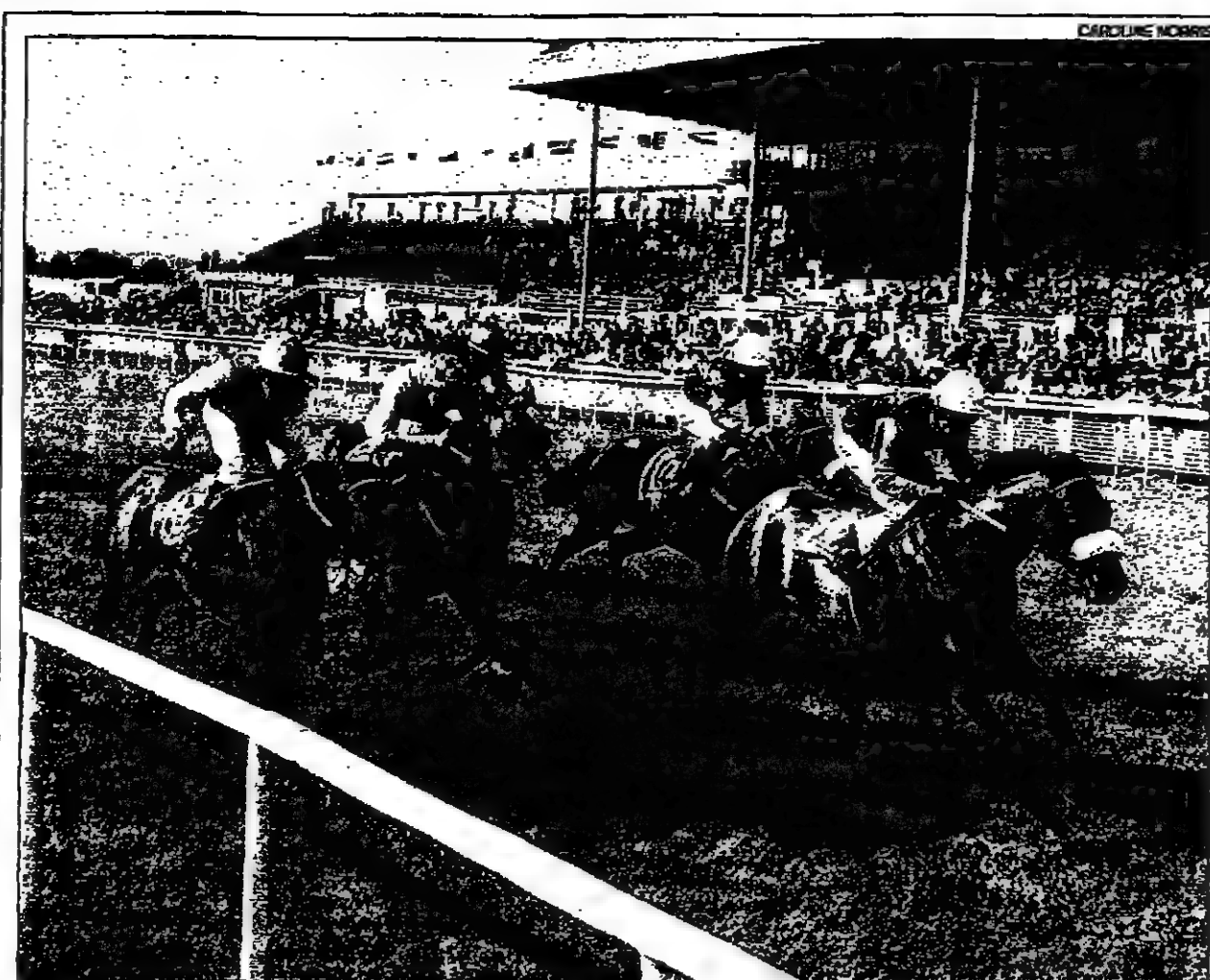
Urbina, who was born in the small northern Spanish town of Vitoria, lives in Newmarket with his brother. In the same way the Italian Frankie Dettori quickly learned the language while being attached to Cumani, Urbina's command of English is improving rapidly.

"I have never been in a classic race before and this is good news. Mons was very good in York, where he was beaten by a good horse. He's in great form and I think he'll run well. He should like the trip," he said yesterday.

In what appears to be one of the most open St Legers for years, there was a significant market move over the weekend for the Dermot Weld-trained Gordi, who will now be ridden by Kieren Fallon instead of Olivier Peslier. The Queen's Vase winner is down to 8-1 (from 10-1) with William Hill.

Weld said yesterday: "He pulled a muscle six weeks ago, which put his participation in doubt, but he has recovered from that and worked after racing with Vintage Crop at the Curragh a week last Saturday and on Friday morning. We are satisfied with the way he went and he is entitled to take his chance."

Meanwhile, the state of the ground will determine which Welsh horse will be ridden by Michael Kinane in the Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown on the same day. If the going is genuinely good or softer, Zagreb, the runaway Irish Derby winner, will run. However, if faster conditions prevail, Daner Design, the Irish Oaks winner, will get the call.



Bianca Nera and Darley speed clear of their rivals in the Moyglare Stud Stakes at the Curragh yesterday

Bianca Nera boosts Loder's hand

FROM OUR TRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT THE CURRAGH

BIANCA NERA emphasised yet again the strength of the David Loder-trained two-year-olds when overcoming traffic problems to win yesterday's group one Moyglare Stud Stakes at the Curragh.

It was only 150 yards from the line that Kevin Darley pulled Bianca Nera out for a run but she accelerated impressively to beat the John Gosden-trained Ryafan by half a length with Azra a neck back in third.

The other British runner, Crystal Crossing, started favourite but was not as fortunate as Bianca Nera in securing a clear passage and finished sixth. Mick Kinane was on my outside and I had nowhere to go. I never got a blow in but we were beaten too far to say we would have won," he jockey John Reid, said. Darley was anxious a furlong out on

the winner as Ryafan and Azra tussled for the lead. "The gap between them got smaller and smaller and I had to pull back and switch. There's no doubt that she is a Guinness filly," Darley said. Loder was adding this group one race to Bahamian Bounty's Prix Morny and said: "I wish I had a stable full like her. She has won three races now inside a month, which is good going by any standard, but she has a tremendous temperament and constitution."

"We took the chance of supplementing her for this [at a cost of £15,000]

because it was the only seven-furlong group one race for her and this is her ideal trip, but I was sweating a furlong out. She's highly unlikely to run again this year but if she does it will be in the Prix Marcel Bressac."

Ryafan ran well on only her second appearance and Pat Eddery, fresh from his 10,994-1 five-furlong at Haydock on Saturday, said: "She has run a sound race and will step up from that. She will get a mile well."

British runners also dominated the group three Donna Viola just got the better of the pace-making Hagwah by half a length. John Reid rode a strong finish to get the Chris Wall-trained filly up near the line. It was Newmarket trainer's first winner in Ireland from only his second runner. Wall said: "I'm delighted with that and will now aim for the Prix de l'Opera at Longchamp during the Arc weekend."

BIG RACE DETAILS

4.15 MOYGLARE STUD STAKES (Group 1, 2-Y-O fillies, 2400m, 7f) 1. BIANCA NERA (K Darley, 3-1) 2. Ryafan (Pat Eddery, 8-1) 3. Azra (K Darley, 14-1) 4. Crystal Crossing (R. W. 4-1) 5. St. Patrick (C. 6-1) 6. Fanny (L. 12-1) 7. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 8. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 9. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 10. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 11. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 12. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 13. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 14. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 15. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 16. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 17. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 18. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 19. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 20. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 21. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 22. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 23. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 24. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 25. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 26. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 27. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 28. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 29. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 30. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 31. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 32. J. de la Roche (J. 12-1) 33. 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Tim Reeve fails to put the exhilaration of skydiving into words, but says you must believe it is amazing

Whuffos think it's hairy, nutters know it's not

Freefall skydiving: air cooled, gravity powered, 100 per cent pure adrenalin. Look at the photographs, imagine what it's like and count slowly up to 60.

One minute. That's roughly what you get. A minute of freefall. Whoop it up with friends, sky surf, or simply drill a hole through the sky. If you get bored you can always take the bike out for a spin.

Once upon a time diving from an aeroplane was considered rather silly, unless you were a hairy paratrooper, or the plane was on fire. The word skydiving inevitably produces one of two reactions: "Raving bonkers", and "Actually, it's something I've always wanted to try."

Most people feel this way, especially after a few drinks, but never get round to it. Jumping from a plane nearly four kilometres up isn't always the first thing that springs to mind. But skydiving is now a sport shared by young and old alike. Last year 27,000 people in the UK made their first jump. Sadly, many people have something of an image problem with skydiving: skydivers call these sceptics whuffos (as in whuff to you) jump out of an "hairy plane". Traumatic deceleration phobia (fear of hitting hard objects at speed) is natural and healthy. Parachuting is safe compared with many other sports, but accidents make good headlines. This has made people view skydivers as "the suicidal pursuit of the terminal," a sport for a daredevil elite. Try telling that to the 98-year-old vicar who jumped recently.

It is only over the last ten years that skydiving has been transformed by technical advances, making it safe, colourful and accessible to anyone. From a design that apparently amused the Mona Lisa as she sat for Leonardo da Vinci 500 years ago, to the 1994 World Record (216 men and women

SPORT FOR ALL

in freefall formation), skydiving has come a long way. It is a truly amazing sport, full of people who have found reward in its exhilaration.

Whuffos think skydiving is dangerous; which of course, it is if you're in the pub trying to impress someone. The biggest question is what if the parachute doesn't open? Most modern parachutes are fitted with a CYPRES, a £1,000 gizmo that automatically opens the reserve if needed.

Whuffos fear landing. Hard landings went out with old-fashioned round parachutes. Most people think of parachutes as round, but modern sport parachutes are rectangular (but confusingly known as squares). Squares fly like a wing, allowing stand-up landings, so there's no rolling on the ground. It's like stepping off a chair.

Whuffos want to know if you can breathe in freefall? Yes, it's identical to breathing on the ground. Can you talk in freefall? No. Only Patrick Swayze and Keanu Reeves do this in movies like *Point Break*. How fast do you go? About 120 miles an hour. Will I throw up, or do something even worse? Thousands of people of all ages do their first jump every year and their laundry bill is quite normal. Yes it's scary, but scary is fun! Stuart Webster, a 33-year-old businessman, is not a



Tandem skydiving: A novice is harnessed to an instructor — and so achieves instant freefall with no training at all. This is the easy way down; now try it on your own



Three in a row: join a display team, good for the daredevils who like to show off

Whuffo. He recently did his first jump. I asked him to describe the sensation. He hesitated, lost for words. "The first few seconds are like a computer crash: the brain kind of goes into autopilot. You do the drills instinctively. It's the ultimate ride; the neuronal equivalent of breaking the sound barrier. I can't really explain it..." he talked off. "But it's awesome."

I asked him if he was going to take it up full time; he snorted with ridicule. "Are you mad? Of course!" Paul Austin (who stopped counting after about 4,000 jumps) and I (with only 400), compared notes, and together we tried to put it into words: falling. No matter how many times you try to explain it you can't. Trust me; it's great.

How do you start? A tandem jump. Harnessed to an instructor, you don't have to do anything vital, except grin at the cameraman in freefall. No training. Tandem was meant to be a way of teaching, but is now a ride for anyone. People are hooked after a tandem, and learn to skydive by doing an accelerated freefall course (learning faster, not falling faster).

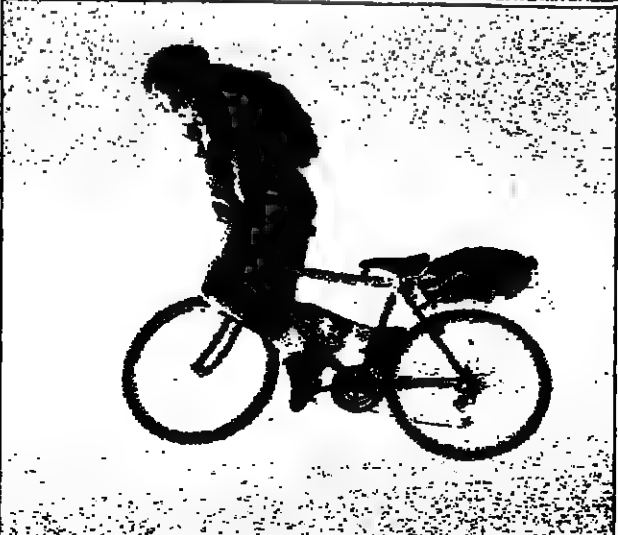
Developed to bypass the slow and tedious static-line to

freefall progression system, it's the safest, speediest and most cost-effective way to learn to skydive, consisting of eight instructor-supervised jumps and ten solo jumps. Bang! You're a British Parachute Association Category VIII skydiver; and you can jump when ever you like.

Once you've learnt the basics, you can try formation skydiving, a competitive sequence of team manoeuvres or join display teams (popular if you like showing off) or travel to the famous drop zones of Florida and California, or go on skydiving holidays (boogies) in exotic locations like Zanzibar, Cuba and South Africa or simply pitch up at the local skydive centre and yahoo out of the plane with friends: it's a whole new world.

Annual costs are similar to skiing. Once you have qualified each jump costs about £14. The initial expense is on training and kit. But watch out; those prone to addiction degenerate into full-time fanatics, wearing strange T-shirts, speaking incomprehensible jargon and spending every holiday travelling to exotic foreign lands to leap from planes.

DAVE MITCHELL



On yer bike: an unusual way to travel down to earth

INFORMATION

THE SKYDIVING Company runs freefall courses in the UK and abroad. A tandem in the UK costs £160, and a two-week freefall holiday in Florida (including flights and accommodation) costs £1,700. The Skydiving Company's parachutes are all fitted with CYPRES automatic opening device. Call: 0181-305 1107.

SO HOW did it all start? The parachute (French *parer*, to avoid, *chute*, fall) was designed by Leonardo da Vinci and was first used 18 years before the Battle of Waterloo. The parachutist was the French aeronaut André-Jacques Garnerin, who released himself over Paris from a balloon in 1797. Skydivers then had to wait 100 years for the Wright brothers to invent a plane to jump out of.

Meanwhile, the first successful British parachutist

HISTORY

was John Hampton in about 1840. There was public opposition to Hampton's jump because his predecessor, Robert Cocking, had suffered a bad case of deceleration trauma. Cocking's parachute was the Sinclair C5 of aerodynamic design: good idea, but not quite right. He had to spend 5,000 feet in freefall considering his mistake. Parachuting gradually de-

veloped, becoming a showman's gimmick to thrill crowds up until the First World War, when it saved the lives of more than 800 balloon observers. Skydiving began properly in 1919 when Leslie Irvin activated his own parachute in freefall. By the 1930s it had become a sport, though up to the 1970s it involved using military surplus parachutes that wouldn't have been out of place at Arnhem. Nowadays they are purpose built, high technology.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

If you picked up

♠86432 ♥53 ♦84 ♣8762

and heard your right-hand opponent open Two Clubs, how would you feel at £50 a hundred? I'd ring the wife and tell her to hold the champagne. But when TGR proprietor Howard Cohen held this hand he came out of it plus \$50. This was the full deal:

Dealer West	Game all	Rubber Bridge
♠86432 ♥53 ♦84 ♣8762	♠86432 ♥53 ♦84 ♣8762	♠86432 ♥53 ♦84 ♣8762
♠AKQJ98 ♥Q3 ♦AKQJ	♠AKQJ98 ♥Q3 ♦AKQJ	♠AKQJ98 ♥Q3 ♦AKQJ
W	N	E
2C	Pass	2D
3H	Pass	4H
5H	SS	Dble
		All Pass

Contract: Five Spades doubled, by South. Lead: ace of clubs

The par result was for East-West to play in Six Hearts doubled, losing 500 points less 100 honours. As it was North-South scored 850. The declarer just lost a trick in each rounded suit.

At the end of the hand South remarked that it was unusual for there to be two Two Club openings on the same hand. That betrayed his idea that he considered the South hand was worth a Two Club opening. It most certainly is not. If you have the bid available, good two-suited hands are much better opened with an Acol Two in their better suit. It is particularly the case when the main suit is diamonds. If the sequence starts Two Clubs — Two Diamonds — Three Diamonds, you won't get your spades in at the three level

unless your partner bids Three Hearts. But after Two Diamonds — 2NT you can complete your description economically by bidding Three Spades.

I've always thought the description "a hand of power and quality with eight playing tricks" a good summary of the requirements for an Acol Two. Eric Crowhurst, the High Priest of Acol, wittingly describes that criterion as one used by minor writers. It is true that you can't summarise the requirements in one sentence. Another test is, would you be afraid of missing a game if your partner passed a one-bid.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HARDOCK
a. A natural small harbour
b. A spiked mace
c. A weed

DIONIAN
a. Having nine tons
b. Revolving
c. An Ionian islander

HEALME
a. A pickelhaube
b. To scrape the bottom
c. A cherry
JEZIAH
a. A very minor prophet
b. An Islamic poll-tax
c. A tribal court

Answers on page 45



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Schools entry

There is still just time to enter the latest British Schools Chess Championship sponsored by *The Times*. The deadline for school entries has been extended until tomorrow. Last minute school entries should immediately contact Mitchell Taylor, the chief organiser, on 0181-959 6915.

Grand prix victory

Viswanathan Anand, the Indian grandmaster, took the \$30,000 first prize in the Credit Suisse speed tournament in Geneva, defeating PCA world champion Garry Kasparov in the final.

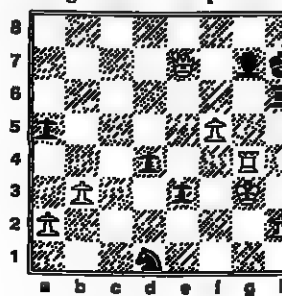
White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Garry Kasparov

Credit Suisse Grand Prix
Geneva, August 1996

Sicilian Defence

1 ♠4 c5
2 ♠3 d5
3 ♠4 cxd4
4 ♠4d4 ♠15
5 ♠3 a6
6 ♠4d4 ♠4
7 ♠4d4 ♠5
8 ♠4d4 ♠5
9 ♠4d4 ♠5
10 ♠4d4 ♠5
11 ♠4d4 ♠5
12 ♠4d4 ♠5
13 ♠4d4 ♠5
14 ♠4d4 ♠5
15 ♠4d4 ♠5
16 ♠4d4 ♠5
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22 ♠4d4 ♠5
23 ♠4d4 ♠5
24 ♠4d4 ♠5
25 ♠4d4 ♠5
26 ♠4d4 ♠5
27 ♠4d4 ♠5
28 ♠4d4 ♠5

Diagram of final position



Times book

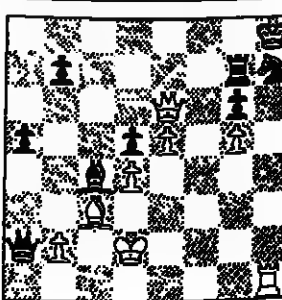
The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276) at £6.99 plus postage and packing. Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

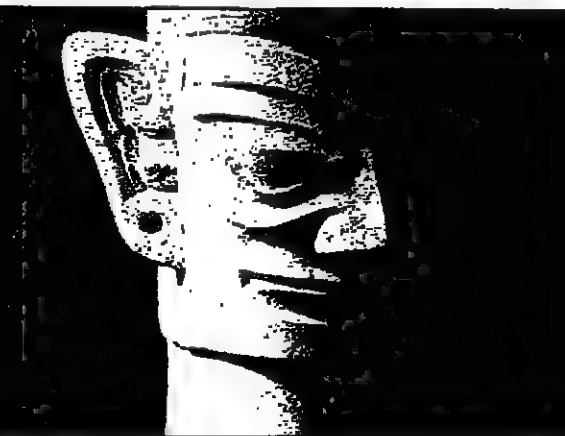
White to play. This position is from the game Canfield — Stowe, Oakland 1954. In this position, White has very active play on the queenside and can, in fact, win immediately. However, he needs to find a very accurate sequence to do so. Can you see it?

Solution on page 45



AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER PROMOTION

Save £2 on China exhibition tickets



The Times, in association with the British Museum, gives you the opportunity to get a discount off the price of tickets for the new China exhibition. Instead of the full price of £5, *Times* readers can buy tickets for £3 each.

The Mysteries of Ancient China is the first major Chinese exhibition in London for 20 years. It includes spectacular new discoveries from China's recently excavated royal tombs and sacrificial pits.

All you have to do is present the voucher below at the exhibition ticket kiosk at the British Museum. A timed ticketing system is in operation. (For further information call the British Museum on 0171-323 8783.)

You can use the advance booking system for which a £1 per ticket booking fee is charged. (You will still save £1 by quoting *The Times*.) Contact First Call on 0171-420 0000. Please bring this voucher with your ticket.

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THE TIMES
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BRITISH MUSEUM

هكذا من الأصل

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Pigs	15	1	15	15	15
Ducks	600	1	37	37	175
Chickens	1000	1	15	15	15
Geese	400	1	25	25	125
Swans	400	1	25	25	125
Goats	100	1	25	25	125
Sheep	100	1	25	25	125
Cattle	100	1	25	25	125
Horses	100	1	25	25	125
Donkeys	100	1	25	25	125
Mules	100	1	25	25	125
Camels	100	1	25	25	125
Elephants	100	1	25	25	125
Rhinos	100	1	25	25	125
Lions	100	1	25	25	125
Tigers	100	1	25	25	125
Leopards	100	1	25	25	125
Cheetahs	100	1	25	25	125
Jaguars	100	1	25	25	125
Panthers	100	1	25	25	125
Wolves	100	1	25	25	125
Coon dogs	100	1	25	25	125
Border collies	100	1	25	25	125
Jack russells	100	1	25	25	125
Scottish terriers	100	1	25	25	125
West highlands	100	1	25	25	125
Shelties	100	1	25	25	125
Border terriers	100	1	25	25	125
Staffordshire bull terriers	100	1	25	25	125
Bulldogs	100	1	25	25	125
Pugs	100	1	25	25	125
French bulldogs	100	1	25	25	125
Boxers	100	1	25	25	125
Dalmatians	100	1	25	25	125
Golden retrievers	100	1	25	25	125
Labrador retrievers	100	1	25	25	125
German shepherds	100	1	25	25	125
Doberman pinschers	100	1	25	25	125
Rottweilers	100	1	25	25	125
Akita inus	100	1	25	25	125
Shiba inus	100	1	25	25	125
Japanese chow chows	100	1	25	25	125
Pekingese	100	1	25	25	125
Tibetan mastiffs	100	1	25	25	125
Bull terriers	100	1	25	25	125
Great danes	100	1	25	25	125
Mastiffs	100	1	25	25	125
Newfoundland dogs	100	1	25	25	125
St. bernards	100	1	25	25	125
Samoyeds	100	1	25	25	125
Swedish lapdogs	100	1	25	25	125
Finland lappas	100	1	25	25	125
Greyhounds	100	1	25	25	125
Whippets	100	1	25	25	125
Dachshunds	100	1	25	25	125
Cocker spaniels	100	1	25	25	125
Irish setters	100	1	25	25	125
English setters	100	1	25	25	125
Scottish setters	100	1	25	25	125
Welsh corgis	100	1	25	25	125
Cairn terriers	100	1	25	25	125
Shetland sheepdogs	100	1	25	25	125
Border sheepdogs	100	1	25	25	125
Westminster terriers	100	1	25	25	125
Yorkshire terriers	100	1	25	25	125
Manchester terriers	100	1	25	25	125
Black and tan coon dogs	100	1	25	25	125
Blue bell dogs	100	1	25	25	125
Black and white coon dogs	100	1	25	25	125
Black and tan pointer dogs	100	1	25	25	125
Black and tan spaniel dogs	100	1	25	25	125
Black and tan terrier dogs	100	1	25	25	125

[illegible][illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A windfall tax is the main fear of potential bidders that

Details of the windfall tax are unlikely to be divulged by Labour before the tax's introduction. Last year, one of the first proposals to the party's economic secretariat on the subject said that it would be a one-off levy and would go "hand-in-hand with proposed consumer price cuts, in consultation with the regulators". Brokers' reports cited in the outline suggested that the water and electricity companies could stand a windfall tax of up to £10 billion and still remain viable.



By FRASER NELSON

Cardcall recently announced an exclusive agreement with Camelot to produce its cards under the National Lottery brand. ANYphone cards, which will compete with BT's pre-paid phone cards, can be used to make local, long-distance and international calls from 29 countries.

Overall the market had a quiet week. The FT-SE AIM index fell by 20 points on the week, closing at 1,066.40.

So if you think a new Rover would make a nice addition to your household, simply keep buying The TES and count to four.

The Times Educational Supplement

No purchase necessary to participate. Please send a separate SAE to TES Car Prize, Admiral House, 60-68 East Smithfield, London E1 9XZ for each free token.



BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

It promises to match the cheapest price on 600 products and to reimburse customers twice the difference if they find a cheaper offer within three miles of the store on the same day.

ing director for trading and marketing of Safeway, said yesterday. "We will be responding vigorously through our 'best buy' range." Last week J Sainsbury launched its "autumn savers" campaign of special offers on 700 prod-

ucts. A spokesman for Asda, which, analysts believe, is the main target of the Tesco campaign, said it would continue its efforts to keep the cost of a weekly shop an average 10 per cent below its rivals.

OXFORD BIOMEDICA, a gene-therapy company, has raised £750,000 through a placement of stock and plans to raise at least £5 million through a flotation on the Alternative Investment Market (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company was formed at the start of this year by Professor Alan Kingsman and Dr Sue Kingsman, directors of

the retrovirus molecular biology group at Oxford University's biochemistry department. Its aim is to commercialise some viruses' ability to deliver therapeutic genes to human cells for the treatment of diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's and HIV infection. The money already raised will be used to lease office and laboratory space and recruit staff.

FLEXTech, the cable and satellite programmer, yesterday denied a newspaper report that it and the BBC have reached an agreement in principle to launch at least six new pay-TV channels next year (Eric Reguly writes).

Flextech, which is half owned by TeleCommunications Inc., America's largest cable operator, could still be trumped by BSkyB, the satel-

BSkyB has offered to make the BBC channels part of its multi-channel package and has told BBC management that only it could accurately predict how much revenue the new services could generate. TCI executives are expected to arrive in London this week in an effort to secure the deal for Flextech.

1990							1990							
High	Low	Mid cap (mil cap)	Price	Wtdy +/-	Yld %	P/E	High	Low	Mid cap (mil cap)	Price	Wtdy +/-	Yld %	P/E	
143	132	14.50	APA Systems	145%	...	...	3	2	0.36	Just Corp Writs	2	...	...
134	109	18.90	AMCO Corp	132%	+ 4	4.7	99	125	90	KS Biomed	8	- 1	...	
113%	87	20.70	AMT Ind Pub	96%	...	...	160	133	46.10	La Senza	137%	...	...
56	18	...	Alcan Alumin	51%	...	...	160	137	27.10	Lancashire En	149	- 1	3.6
161	98	23.80	Active Impreg	131%	+ 1	...	300	270	17.80	Lebanon Ind	250	- 1	3.0	
210	123	29.60	A of G	300	...	3.0	15.6	160	25.10	Laurie Group	250	- 100	3.0	
20%	7%	15.80	Altaba Corp	15%	...	...	34.6	280	25.60	Lehigh Ind	284	...	7.0
21%	13	7.19	Altemida & B	19	15	12	0.80	Life Numbers	12
55	35	8.00	Allyson	37%	...	...	...	10	0.16	Life Numbers	28	...	...
24	10%	7.75	Alma Smleray	10%	18%	13	4.25	Lis & Edin Pab	14%	- 1	2.2
480	380	46.00	Am S Brewery	480	...	4.8	12.9	95	85	...	London Asia P	85
900	800	5.84	Am St Cl Pl	900	...	5	8.2	70	55	1.36	London Ten	301	...	1.5
121	48	58.00	Amtron	79%	340	182%	...	Loren Exp	4	- 1%	26.1
146%	91	1.78	Arden Progs	8%	107	85	6.92	Lotus Hmware	4
81	33	32.40	Ashtari	37%	- 7%	1%	4	0.26	Lotus Hmware	4
141	53	20.50	Ask Central	127%	25	15	10.40	Marx & O Seas	17%	- 1	2.3
94%	55	1.18	Ashbury Trust	64%	135	75	11.50	Marine & Merc S	95	- 4	...
146%	123	45.00	BATF Ady Comm	147%	125	107	2.81	Mattel Hmware	25
7	5%	8.37	Ballymore	6%	117	82	58.40	Megaplanet	95	- 1%	...
88	64%	12.40	Barclain Health	84%	104	79	1.04	Megaplanet Wts	95	- 7%	...
46	37%	3.33	Bellcan	37%	113	96	7.91	Mektek	100%	...	3.1
150	146	1.01	Bennet Lda	147%	475	24	18.20	Memory Corp	3	- 13%	...
70	70	0.34	Born Lda Cx Pl	70%	59%	59%	13.70	Morphy Tech	22%	- 5	...
70	41	0.59	Brancato Hldgs	49%	43	22%	4.03	Motor Tech Wts	22%	- 5	...
107	89	3.95	B Woodstock	94	- 1	2.0	28.0	22	18	4.66	Morphy Films	19	- 1%	2.5
107%	240	13.40	C C C Hldgs	50	+ 27%	258	156	16.00	Morphy	258%	...	26.3
132%	116	1.06	C C Hldgs	132%	149	116	7.95	Morphy Corp	305
110	109%	0.12	CCA Fomster Sls	109%	30	285	20.00	Myco	217
213	95	4.57	Cafe Inc	180	...	1.9	12.2	19	125	92%	Myco	217
75	...	0.00	Calendat Int	67	340	215	14.80	Nash (Wm)	310	...	3.3
3%	2	2.30	Capital & Wsh	3%	210	175	8.72	Nash (Wm)	310	...	18.5
98	68	12.90	Cardinal	79%	- 7	0.0	18.0	380	380	10.20	Nelson Cobbold	340	...	2.9
43	29	14.60	Cardi	32%	- 5	470	200	10.20	Nelson Cobbold	340	...	14.6
100	81	9.58	Cardinal Ship	100	116	116	49.00	Nelson Cobbold	157%	- 3%	...
100	72	3.06	Cassidy Bros	55	...	6.7	10.2	107	85	...	Norby	72	...	36.2
40	41	2.07	Cassidy Wsh	47%	...	3.9	22.6	78	63	...	Horwath	49%	+ 3	...
40	16	6.59	Celadrone Group	21	...	1.8	12.8	78	42%	8.21	Wm Pottm	49%	+ 3	...
332%	8530	...	Dell	225%	70	55	0.12	Wm Pottm	49%	+ 3	...
227%	6450	...	Dell	225%	70	55	0.12	Wm Pottm	49%	+ 3	...
124	100	15.20	CI Comm(TV)	112%	...	2.0	13.7	116	110%	44.90	Murphy Home	111%
98	61	7.10	Clonnet Int	82%	- 8	147	85%	22.80	Old English Pub	111%	+ 5	0.9
100	58	12.80	Chesapeake Wsh	100%	138	95	13.30	Orlando	111%	+ 4	0.0
200	120	13.00	Chemical Design	180%	+ 15	75	39%	8.74	Orlando	111%	+ 4	0.0
185	173	19.60	Circle Comm	197%	123	86	23.80	Optical Corp	102%	- 2	...
134%	111	26.20	Circuit	112%	+ 5	4.8	13.0	3%	1	2.50	Optical Med	2%
110	110	0.65	Clemco Int	265	125	47%	19.30	Pacific Med	2%
35	28	13.70	Columbian	170	125	173	46.80	Pacific Wm P	111%	- 8	...
510	300	12.00	Com of Prt Pl	500	...	3.1	...	125	100	4.73	Park Est(Ln)	370	...	3.1
100	15	8.94	Concurrent Tech	98	- 19	445	360	89.60	Park Est(Ln)	370	- 6	...
100	85	0.24	Concordia A Pl	100	337%	100	55.00	Phillips Gas	198%
100	95	0.19	Concord Tech Pl	98	- 5	140	107	27.50	Phillips Gas	198%
125	125	0.84	Concord Tech Pl	125	140	107	27.50	Phillips Gas	198%
225	225	0.17	Concord Tech Pl	225	140	107	27.50	Phillips Gas	198%
120	55	0.84	Concord Tech Pl	120	140	107	27.50	Phillips Gas	198%
97%	88	2.85	Concord Tech Pl	97%	140	107	27.50	Phillips Gas	198%
108	57	22.00	Cross Int	61%	140	107	27.50	Phillips Gas	198%
63	48	22.00	Cross Int	61%	140	107	27.50	Phillips Gas	198%
477%	132	24.00	DBS Management	477%	140	107	27.50	Phillips Gas	198%
36	31	...	Dalton Int	36	140	107	27.50	Phillips Gas	198%
170%	80%	...	Dalton Int	170%	140	107	27.50	Phillips Gas	198%
17	11	4.95	Dan Corp	11%	...	2.2	12.4	1%	0.4	0.14	Wm Pottm	49%	+ 3	...
4	4	5.17	Dan Corp	4	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
375	365	26.40	Dan Corp	375	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
11	76	13.80	Digital Audio	11	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
77	60	13.80	Digital Audio	77	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
4	4	3.07	Drings of Bath	4	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
14	45	8.41	Drings of Bath	14	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
144	148	50.70	Elc Retail Sys	241	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
200	73	48.30	Electronics	200	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
116	61	21.20	Elc Retail Sys	116	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
125	120	5.50	Elc Retail Sys	125	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
475	325	...	Elc Retail Sys	475	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
53	41	2.49	Elc Retail Sys	53	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
150	150	42.00	Elc Retail Sys	150	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
65	57%	2.99	Elc Retail Sys	65	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
260	75	5.08	Elc Retail Sys	260	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
188	31	10.50	Elc Retail Sys	188	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
188	31	10.50	Elc Retail Sys	188	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
245	188	5.83	Elc Retail Sys	245	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
343	263	1.53	Elc Retail Sys	343	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
198	136	15.80	Elc Retail Sys	198	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
37%	14	133.10	Elc Retail Sys	37%	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
143	93	8.16	Elc Retail Sys	143	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
23	17	8.46	Elc Retail Sys	23	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
12%	6%	13.80	Elc Retail Sys	12%	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
23%	18	27.00	Elc Retail Sys	23%	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
13%	8	4.16	Elc Retail Sys	13%	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
150	145	50.00	Elc Retail Sys	150	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
207	169	25.00	Elc Retail Sys	207	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
1	1	1.75	Elc Retail Sys	1	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
65	53	2.82	Elc Retail Sys	65	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
275	155	1.52	Elc Retail Sys	275	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
255	180	10.70	Elc Retail Sys	255	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
136	120	152.70	Elc Retail Sys	136	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
80	55	0.82	Elc Retail Sys	80	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
330	170	86.60	Elc Retail Sys	330	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
280	155	3.30	Elc Retail Sys	280	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
96	65	17.00	Elc Retail Sys	96	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
134	105	12.80	Elc Retail Sys	134	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
88	63	13.80	Elc Retail Sys	88	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
58	62	15.00	Elc Retail Sys	58	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
776	503	24.20	Elc Retail Sys	776	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
165%	108	39.50	Elc Retail Sys	165%	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
100	83	3.46	Elc Retail Sys	100	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
380	220	21.00	Elc Retail Sys	380	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
74%	48%	9.30	Elc Retail Sys	74%	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...
5%	3%	5.37	Elc Retail Sys	5%	...	...	...	15	11.20	Warner Home	17	+ 2	...

If you had been told two

If you had been told two years ago that, approaching the end of 1996, underlying inflation in Britain would still be below 3 per cent and looking likely to hit 2 per cent before long, you would surely have thought that gilt holders would have enjoyed a strong rally. In fact they are still paying 84 per cent, and ten-year gilts pay 8 per cent. That is about 14 per cent more than Germany and France pay, 1 per cent more than the US, and, incredibly, only a smidgen less than Sweden.

Why? What does the gilt market know that we don't? In fact, it is not a matter of knowledge. It is about fear. The market has three worries — a resurgence of inflation, a Labour government, and Britain's exclusion from EMU.

soon from the inflation front, you would think that experience since 1992 would have taught the bears a lesson. But no, they are hanging on in there. They have *some* support from data, but this seems to change radically over time; only the mood of caution remains the same. In 1993, while monetary growth was weak, the effect of the 1992 devaluation was supposed to cause inflation to surge. In 1994, it was the strong rise in commodity prices. In 1995, it was the strength of the economy, weak sterling, and significant price rises in the services sector. It was this, it was said, that was the pick-up in wages. This year, it is growth of the broad money supply M4, recovery in the housing market, and forecasts of a strong economy next year.

growth next year accompa-

The market's fear of Labour is similarly atavistic. It worries not so much about Old Labour as Antediluvian Labour. After all, the party last won a general election, narrowly, in 1974, in the days of the miners' strike, gigantic oil price rises and the Cold War.

New Labour is not simply the result of an idea in the mind of its leaders. It is a response to the radically different circumstances of the day. You have only to look at what left-leaning administrations have been forced to do in France, Spain, Australia and New Zealand to have an inkling of what a Labour government would be like.

Far from the free spending, inflationary administration that many in the market want to leave the Labour government is likely to be almost puritanical in its fiscal policy, not least because it may be striving to join EMU or, if outside it, or if EMU fails to take place, it will be striving for the approbation of the financial markets, in competition with nearly all governments in the developed west.

to surge. In 1994, it was the strong rise in commodity prices. In 1995, it was the strength of the economy, weak sterling, and signs of a pick-up in wages. This year, it is growth of the broad money supply M4, recovery in the housing market, and forecasts of a strong economy next year.

Meanwhile, many of the things that worried the market recently have turned out favourably — and promptly been cast aside. The pound has strengthened, the rate of increase of input prices has fallen into negative territory, the output price inflation has fallen to just 1½ per cent, and wage settlements have recently been falling.

Although you would not think it on the basis of all the talk about a rampant boom, the performance of the real economy this year has also been disappointing. Most forecasters have had to revise their forecasts *down*. This year's growth rate will probably turn out to be only about 2 per cent.

The market cannot quite believe that the perennial

So investors in long gilts are being paid 8 1/2 per cent, rather than 7 1/2 per cent (or even 6 1/2 per cent) to take three sorts of risk. These risks are well worth taking. At some stage, the market will adjust. Admittedly, this may not happen until after next year's election. But remember, it is the early bird that catches the worm.

ROGER BOOTLE
Chief Economist
HSBC Group

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Dividend expected to rise as market awaits life insurer's plans for expansion into banking

Rising claims likely to hit Pru profit

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

RISING general insurance claims in the UK and poor investment results mean Prudential, the UK's largest life insurer, is expected to report a dip in its interim profits this week. However, analysts will be more interested in hearing about Prudential's plans for expansion into the banking and financial services industry when the company reports on Wednesday.

The interim results come too

early to include the proposed £1.75 billion sale of Mercantile & General, Prudential's reinsurance arm, to Swiss Re, which should be completed by the end of the year.

Its completion will leave Prudential with plenty of cash. It has already said it wants to buy a substantial building society or life insurer. The Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester building societies, both of which want to convert into banks, are believed to be the most likely targets.

David Nisbet of NatWest Securities is forecasting a £17 million fall in operating profit to June 30 from £390 million in 1995 to £373 million.

Dividends per share are expected to increase from 5.3p to 5.7p to reflect the expected growth in Prudential's life business of around 8 per cent.

In July, Prudential revealed an encouraging half-year new business performance in the life sector, which suggested the industry had regained public confidence. Pep sales

coupled with new corporate pensions helped annual premium business. Life profits for the half year are likely to be up around 8 per cent at £361 million.

Mr Nisbet does not expect an announcement on Prudential's surplus "orphan" assets in the life fund, other than a holding statement confirming that Prudential is still in talks with the Department of Trade and Industry over their distribution. When Prudential announced at its full-year results

in March that it was looking at the surplus, it suggested discussions with the DTI would take at least a year.

Some industry observers say Prudential's endeavours to release its own orphan assets may have prompted some of its reservations over the proposed merger of Refuge Assurance and United Friendly, the life insurers.

Refuge has been accused of failing to take into account orphan assets in its ordinary branch life fund. One fund

manager, Perpetual, which has a 7 per cent stake, claimed the company had been under-valued by £400 million. Prudential holds 6 per cent of Refuge and might have felt that its own request for the release of orphans would be adversely affected had it not taken a stand on those belonging to Refuge.

The life insurance sector is currently buoyed up by the prospect of increased dividends and windfall payouts from such redistributions.

Finance adviser is stage-struck

THE Royal Opera House brought to the fore the dangers of inviting television cameras into the workplace. Now it's the turn of Birmingham-based Wesleyan Financial Services, perhaps the only UK insurance company brave enough to allow BBC2 inside its doors. The fly-on-the-wall documentary that goes out tomorrow night preys on Wayne Percival, a quick-witted Liverpoolian and financial adviser at Wesleyan. In a bid to uncover why Britain spent £100 billion on insurance last year, the BBC trailed after Percival for four days in his blue Rover 200. The curse has already struck him. The week after filming, Percival broke his leg playing table tennis, forcing him to take two months off work.

Step of equality

FED UP with "the boys always holding the bashes", three City females are organising the first traders' ball to be held this Thursday. Fiona Coull from Svenska Handelsbanken, and two chums from Nomura International and LGT Asset Management, have invited more than 150 men and 100 women to the charity event in the Barbican conservatory. Money raised from "The Early Birds Ball" will go towards Great Ormond Street. Said Coull: "We're quite a well-paid bunch, and we wanted to give something back."

Mallet masters

THIS year's winner of the Conroy & Barrow Golf Croquet League is Leopold Joseph & Sons, the merchant bank. Justin Pryor, one of last year's runners up, and Richard Fellows, with his high-tech mallet, made up the winning pair nicknamed "The Rolling Bulls". Meanwhile, John French, a moneybroker at Prebon Yamane, made a poor excuse for his team's 7-3 defeat: he felt the grass at Exchange Square was "too short" and "too dry". Oliver McEvoy, French's sapping of a sidekick, who joined Prebon Yamane after only 18 weeks as a graduate trainee, was clearly enjoying his new-found celebrity. "I was only standing in when someone

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

else went on holiday. I never expected anything like this."

STEVEN REDGRAVE. Britain's Olympic gold medalist, watched 213 boats, including teams from TSB, Hoare Govett and Citibank, row between Richmond and the Isle of Dogs during Saturday's Great River Race. Even "Interplod", Interpol's four-ear dinghy, completed the 22-mile course. In a reference to a rash remark that the rowing champion made in Atlanta — "Shoot me if you see me near a boat again" — Redgrave, trawled in as official starter, carefully pointed the cannon away from himself.

Stonewalled

THE executive directors at Cattle's, the financial services and insurance broking group currently based in Hull, could soon be without a roof over their heads. A shortage of bricklayers has meant that work on the group's new head office in Leeds, that hasn't yet started, might not be finished for the October 1 deadline. Kier, the construction company, is having difficulty tempting bricklayers away from Germany to work on "Kingsford House" on the Spring Ram Industrial Park. Eddie Cran, chairman at Cattle's, explains it as "the Auf Wiedersehen, Pet factor".

AS OIL prices hit an all-time high last week, the highest since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, a senior official from Opec, talking to The Gulf Today, said: "Saddam is helping to improve the income of his Gulf War enemies Saudi Arabia and Kuwait."

MORAG PRESTON

BTR set to cut dividend

BTR, the diversified industrial company, is likely to cut its dividend payout by up to 40 per cent when it announces half-year results on Thursday.

Ian Strachan, chief executive, is also expected to detail a far-reaching restructuring plan that will include up to £2 billion of disposals.

Analysts predict that the dividend may be cut from 5p to as little as 3.5p. A dividend cut, the first for more than a decade, would enable BTR to restore dividend payouts to a more sustainable level, as well as freeing money for investment. BTR's cash flow has steadily deteriorated in the past few years, eroding the company's ability to make high dividend payouts.

Mr Strachan has made clear since becoming chief executive at the start of the year, that he wants to slim the sprawling giant created by Sir Owen Green, the former chairman. BTR will concentrate on building up high-margin engineering work. It is likely to sell non-core activities, including its remaining consumer and non-manufacturing companies.

Equity pool

Gresham Trust is today launching the Eagle Star Co-Investment Plan to provide an equity pool of £120 million for investment in unquoted equity financings.

Cybertec task

Cybertec, a multimedia communications company, is to supply Osmosis, a computer component supplier, with video-conferencing equipment in a deal worth £925,000.



John Lewis, whose planned flotation of Principal Hotels reflects the leisure industry's interest in coming to market

Principal to seek £50m in flotation

BY ERIC REGULY

THE leisure industry's rush to the stock market continued yesterday when Principal Hotels, the operator of classic period hotels, said that it intends to raise about £50 million in an autumn flotation.

The sale, expected to give Principal a market capitalisation of £100 million, will probably be one of the last of its kind this year. The hotel sector has been flooded with new equity in recent months as groups such as Jarvis, Millennium & Copthorne, Cliveden, MacDonald and Thistle have taken advantage of the upswing in the hotel cycle. There are already signs that the flotation blitz is running out of momentum. Loro, for example, has decided to seek trade buyers for its Princess and Metropole hotel chains after postponing their £700 million flotation.

Principal has 2,500 bedrooms in 21 hotels. Sixteen of the properties are in England, with the other five in Edinburgh, Dublin, Amsterdam and Copenhagen, with two. The hotels have catered primarily to leisure customers, although, after being upgraded to include conference facilities, they are increasingly going after the business market.

The company was created in 1994 through a £70 million management buyout financed by a consortium led by NatWest Ventures. John Lewis, the chairman, and four other executive directors own about 10 per cent of Principal. They intend to retain most of their equity in the belief that yields from regional hotels will continue to rise. Principal has no properties in London.

Principal had an operating profit of £8.1 million on turnover of £42.6 million in its last financial year. James Capel, the company's broker, expects operating profits of £11.5 million in the year to October 31.

A pathfinder prospectus is to be published at the end of the month. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the underwriter, hopes to price the issue by late October or early November. Principal said that it will use flotation proceeds to cut debt and to expand by creating 300 or more bedrooms. Over the past two years, it has spent £11 million to add 200 bedrooms, and conference and leisure facilities. Business clients now provide about half of turnover.

Poll shows small firms favour minimum wage

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

STRONG support for a statutory minimum wage from both business and the public is indicated today in new opinion polls commissioned by Britain's trade unions.

Trade union leaders say that the findings, released as the Trades Union Congress opens its annual conference today, counters claims by business organisations and the Conservatives that industry generally is opposed to a minimum wage.

According to a MORI poll of 150 small firms, many from sectors such as retailing where a minimum wage is likely to hit, small business backs Labour's plans to introduce a national minimum wage. Three in five of the businesses

polled support a minimum wage, with 24 per cent strongly in favour and 35 per cent tending to support it. More than a quarter back a minimum wage set at more than £4 an hour, the target of a number of trade unions. Seventy-seven per cent believe that their own businesses would not suffer.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, which commissioned the poll, said it showed a minimum wage was supported by business. He said: "Employers are changing their tune. They see the value of a national minimum."

The TUC will on Wednesday back Labour's plans for a national minimum, as well as

supporting a specific target of £4.26 an hour, which the Labour leadership does not want to see set in advance of the general election.

Separate poll evidence from NOP, commissioned by the TUC itself, shows 80 per cent of the public in favour of a national minimum, 87 per cent of trade union members and Labour party supporters, and even two-thirds of Conservative supporters.

Part-time workers are increasingly professionals with specialist skills, fully employed working for a range of organisations, rather than just low-paid, low-skilled workers, according to a new study today by the Institute of Management and the TUC.

Airlines will give up slots for a price

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

AMBITIOUS plans by America's leading airlines to expand their operations at Heathrow by ousting rivals already flying from the airport are to be fiercely resisted — unless the price is right.

A growing number of airlines flying into overcrowded Heathrow are privately beginning to accept that a formal slot market could be the only method of creating the "open skies" being sought by American airlines. But, they say they will not give up their slots without compensation.

Official government talks between Britain and America over "open skies" across the Atlantic have now broken down largely because of the slot-allocation problem.

Britain's negotiators have told US government officials that they will only open up Heathrow to more American services if British Airways is first allowed to complete its planned near-merger with American Airlines. But, say the Americans, the airport is already full and therefore the British must agree to take away existing slots and hand them to their airlines.

The strength of opposition to such a plan was made clear by British Midland Airways — it has 14 per cent of all take-off and landing slots at Heathrow. "We would be very unhappy if governments got involved in handing over slots which had been confiscated," said Austin Reid, managing director of BMA. "If US airlines were able to get ahead of the queue as a result of such a thing it would be totally wrong."

But significantly he also gave tacit approval to the developing slot market idea. "It seems to us to be the only sensible change that anyone has proposed so far," he said.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5635 (+0.0005)
German mark 2.3271 (+0.0175)
Exchange index 85.7 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2811.2 (+13.9)
FT-SE 100 3893.0 (+25.4)
New York Dow Jones 5659.86 (+43.65)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 20152.53 (-14.37)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch	17.38	15.88
Belgium Fr	50.88	46.43
Canada \$	2.257	2.087
Cyprus Cyp£	0.7534	0.6864
Denmark Kr	9.56	8.76
Finland Mk	7.83	6.98
France Fr	6.37	7.72
Germany Dm	2.481	2.271
Greece Dr	387	352
Hong Kong \$	12.76	11.76
Iceland	115	95
Ireland P	1.016	0.936
Israel Sh	5.32	4.87
Italy Lira	2475	2320
Japan Yen	165.30	169.30
Malta	0.603	0.545
Netherlands Gld	2.783	2.593
New Zealand \$	2.40	2.18
Norway Kr	10.58	9.78
Portugal Esc	240.50	231.00
S Africa Rd	7.84	6.84
Spain Ptas	203.00	190.00
Sweden Kr	11.03	10.23
Switzerland Fr	2.023	1.843
Turkey Lira	139192	131192
USA \$	1.665	1.535

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Introduction to the Official List

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Authorised		Share Capital	
Number	Amount	Number	Amount
29,800,000	£1,490,000	Issued and fully paid	
		ordinary shares of 5p each	22,809,256
			£1,140,462.80

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9th September 1996

Ten years ago, the Trades Union Congress was riven by anger and despair. Its members had reaped a legal whirlwind of reform designed to destroy the power and privileges many had abused during the 1970s. Unemployment had trebled in six years to a peak of 3.1 million as high exchange and interest rates razed swathes of manufacturing industry and state firms were rationalised.

Miners had suffered a cruel and symbolic defeat after a year-long dispute that other unions felt obliged to support even if they knew it was doomed, an archaic cavalry charge against history. In 1986, fraternal unions were at each others' throats over another tragedy for their members after the *Times* and other News International titles finally broke print unions' notorious stranglehold over national newspapers.

This week, Congress will be held in a very different atmosphere. True, Conservative Central Office will be looking for any hint of aggression, for instance over minimum wages, to paint unions as sleeping ogres, waiting for the wake-up call of a Labour government to stalk the land again with cudgel and ransom demand. True, some observers foresee another winter of discontent spreading to private industry as post and rail unions rebel against years of public sector restraint in a faint echo of the suicidal events of 1979.

To a new generation, however, unions are now the worthy underdogs again. Millions of the formerly

A memo to unions: if you can't beat them join them



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

press-ganged doubtless find their working lives more comfortable and sane without union battles. But as many millions are looking for a new helping hand when nothing seems secure, when weak managers have eagerly taken on the role of tyrant and when financial institutions abuse their power to maximise the short-term share of profit, yet scorn investment in expansion.

If unions now seem more cuddly, it is also because they have lost so much power and, to many young people, even everyday relevance. There are now two million more private shareholders than union members. That is an astonishing social change. It means that investors in privatised utilities (which dominate shareholding lists) are at least as representative of ordinary folk as unionised employees.

Under John Monks, the TUC has swum with this tidal wave of change. The TUC has become a lobbyist, campaigner and educator, an employees' CBI, rather than a power broker. It is easier to lobby your friends, but under a Labour government the TUC is ready to play the role of the CBI under the Tories. Tony Blair's commitment to

a minimum wage is its main victory of this era. It need not be an embarrassment this week if the fixers play their cards right. It is perfectly feasible to have a modest statutory minimum, with a higher figure as threshold for relief from employers' National Insurance contributions. The TUC's next campaign might be to question that full employment should ask at every opportunity why we tax jobs. If the TUC is ready and packed, however, most member unions have still to back their ticket to an expanding future. They are still consolidating and adapting. Most

are much more user-friendly, offering personal services, personal representation, group discounts and the like. Few have grasped any new role to compare in importance with collective bargaining, which will always be central to unions but which, outside the ever-shrinking public sector, is unavailable to many existing and potential members.

Demos, the think-tank, has become so impatient that it suggests by-passing unions in favour of a new kind of "employee mutual". These would aim to help people in insecure jobs facing serial redundancy to survive and prosper. In these new patterns of working life, which the Labour Party has embraced as inevitable even if some of us have not, people would need to organise their own marketing, pensions, training and security. In a Demos paper published to coincide with the Congress, Geoff Mulgan and Tom Bentley envisage new tax-advantaged legal entities that are part labour agency, part union, part co-operative as "an appropriate model for economies based on human capital".

Maybe. Yet all these functions have been provided by trade unions

at one time or another, whether employers wanted them or not. Unions have not even been that far from the welfare societies envisaged by Frank Field and the late Sir Keith Joseph. Given efficient professional management, which is admittedly the biggest caveat at Blackpool this week, they are well placed to develop in any direction employees' needs demand. In financial services speak, they have distribution power.

The most pressing need is for someone to provide flexible, low-cost money-purchase pension plans for the low-paid and the necessarily mobile. These are the sort of people that traditional company pensions schemes do not fit and that tailored personal pensions have conspicuously failed. Official help is needed, but mainly to oblige employers to back properly authorised schemes.

To minimise suspicions of political interference, unions might best have funds more or less tracking the relevant shares indexes, with an alternative ethical variant. In a different sense, however, interference could bring members closer to the companies they "own" than any but big individual shareholders. As funds build up over a generation, unions would become powerful investors, as in America, able between them to influence corporate Britain from the same standpoint as other shareholders. By then, they should have learnt to exercise it more responsibly than most bonus-driven, morally neutered institutional investors do today.

Robert Miller and Jon Ashworth look at the Stock Exchange's toughened stance

Insider dealers under notice

Insider dealing is the ultimate City crime. But dramatic Hollywood-style pictures of high-flying Wall Street figures being led away in handcuffs — a kind of rough justice not meted out in London — should not make anyone think it is some kind of game. Innocent investors are most often the victims. As Mr Justice Henry said in the first Guinness trial: "There is no such thing as victimless crime."

After 15 years of outlawry, at least two major insider dealing rings are still believed to be using the London Stock Exchange to cream off off millions of pounds of investors' money via tortuous networks intended to be untraceable. They illustrate the lack of success enjoyed by the various civil and criminal authorities from the Stock Exchange and Department of Trade and Industry to the Serious Fraud Office and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Between 1981 and 1993, 51 people in the UK were charged with insider dealing. Of these, 14 pleaded guilty. Of the remaining 37, only nine were convicted. Despite a new statutory regime, insider dealing prosecutions have since slowed to a mere trickle, at about half a dozen.

Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog, admits:

"This record has provoked criticism." Insider dealing in the UK is often claimed to be virtually impossible to prove without a signed confession. A prosecutor needs to prove beyond all reasonable doubt that an offence has been committed, providing endless ways of wriggling out of what may appear to be a cut-and-dried case.

Many cases simply never make it to court. One of the biggest controversies of recent years involved Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, who was accused of using inside information to buy shares in Anglia Television ahead of a takeover bid by MAF. Lord Archer's media group, Embarrasingly, Lady Archer, his wife, was a non-executive director of Anglia. Questions were asked as to how dealings came to be made in the name of Brook Saib, a Kurdish associate, and why a cheque for £80,000 was forwarded care of Lord Archer's London address.

Lord Archer admitted he had made a "grave error", and apologised to his wife for any embarrassment caused. Michael Heseltine, then President of the Board of Trade, ruled that no further action should be taken. Controversy flared again when Karen Morgan Thomas, a "soft commission" broker with James Capel, was accused of profiting from dealings in Anglia shares. The DTI launched an investigation, but the case was subsequently dropped.

The first big case was in 1987, when Geoffrey Collier, former head of securities at Morgan Grenfell, was fined £25,000 and given a 12-month suspended sentence for insider dealing. Collier admitted using confidential information to buy shares before a bid, ironically losing £10,000.

In 1991, a Yorkshire businessman became the first person to be jailed for insider dealing in the UK. Ivor Goodman, former chairman of the Uni Group, based in Leeds, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, half of which was suspended, for selling his £12 million stake in the company before losses were announced to the world at large.

The following year, four City brokers, David Gray, Catherine Rowlands, William Liggins and Mark Riding, were convicted for their part in an insider dealing ring. They were accused of "brazen defiance" of the dealing rules. Thorold Mackie, a well-known investment analyst, was convicted of insider dealing at the High Court in Edinburgh, only to have his conviction quashed on appeal. In contrast to the classic public image of insider dealing, he had been accused of tipping off brokers that Shanks & McEwan, the waste management company, was about to issue a profits warning.

Cases take up to four years to reach the courts. The SIB, which now co-operates more closely with the Stock Exchange and the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), regulator of brokers and futures dealers, points out that the regulators can only pursue authorised investment firms. In a speech to the City Forum in July this year, Sir Andrew said: "We do face a credibility problem here, and more needs to be done. Under a criminal system, the hurdle to be cleared in mounting a successful prosecution is understandably high."

But, as a result, activities which take place outside the scope of the regulators, whether the actions of company directors or of end-users of markets, may not be taken to court. And actions which would be unacceptable and could be punished if entered into by someone who was subject to regulation can go unchallenged.

Nevertheless, insider dealers have been put on notice that their activities are now part of the agenda at the Stock Exchange. For the exchange remains the City authority charged with detecting abuse and building a case file before handing it on, most often to the DTI but sometimes the fraud office.

Richard Kilsby, director of market services at the Stock Exchange, is spearheading a new drive against insider dealers and the more catch-all offence of market abuse. He is working closely with Stuart Paul-Clark, head of regulatory systems at the exchange. Mr Paul-Clark's team has spent heavily to install a new artificial intelligence computer program known as IMAS (integrated monitoring and surveillance).



The City has been told that the exchange is determined to stamp out market abuses



Sir Andrew Large, left, SIB chairman, and Geoffrey Collier, who admitted insider dealing



them, it automatically allows for price-sensitive events such as poor results, takeover rumours, or managers leaving.

A surveillance team of six continually monitor the screens. When something untoward happens, they immediately phone the company's broker or the firm itself.

Like the SIB, Mr Kilsby believes that the new crackdown on insider dealers and market manipulators, and the subsequent prosecution of offenders will ultimately only succeed if civil law is beefed up, so that they need no longer rely on criminal trials.

Mr Kilsby points to the "cease and desist" powers available to authorities under the American system. These allow the Securities & Exchange Commission, the chief US market watchdog, to reach an agreement with a bank or finance house, whereby the institution concerned agrees to pay a fine together with a range of possible other penalties, without admitting liability. The disciplinary package can then be presented to a judge in a civil court who rubber stamps the deal.

Bankers Trust paid \$15 million in relation to fraudulent sales practices. Ivan Bosky, the Wall Street arbitrator, was fined \$100 million in 1986 and served 22 months in jail, in connection with insider dealing offences. Robert Louis Dreyfus, former chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi, agreed to pay £140,000 in February 1991, to settle an action in America. He was alleged to have passed on information about a pending £1 billion takeover of IMS International, a market research firm.

Mr Kilsby admits that the American approach could meet with resistance in the UK. He says: "It could smack of pie-bargaining or deals which as a culture we in Britain do not accept. This is unfortunate and could be counter-productive."

Not is the US system uniformly better than that in the UK. For example, in the early stages of tracking a suspect deal, the database of information held by the Stock Exchange and the SFA on traders, brokers and other professional market users is superior to the American version. The Stock Exchange

monitoring department is in instant contact with brokers when its suspicions are aroused, and can see almost immediately who is behind a particular transaction. In the US, officials have to use "blue-sheeting" — a practice that involves sending a form to the broker in question asking for details of the deal, the day after it has happened.

The UK system is weaker, however, in tracking down the ultimate beneficiary of a deal done by a private investor. In the US, every private investor using the market for share deals must use their own personal tax code.

One difficulty facing Mr Kilsby and his surveillance team is that the Stock Exchange is a commercial as well as a regulatory body. He accepts conflicts of interest will arise, but nevertheless insists that stamping out market abuse must take priority over commercial sensitivities.

"Short-term bad press about insider dealing rings can still lead to long-term benefits," he argues. "Good quality regulation is absolutely vital to ensure confidence for all market users and to give investors the protection they deserve."

RADIO CHOICE

A battle with no bloodshed

Battling with the Past. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

Last Monday it was the Wars of the Roses. This morning it's 1066 and all that. Well, almost all that because there's only 30 minutes into which an awful lot has to be packed. Nevertheless, there is enough here about the Battle of Hastings and its consequences for us to admire the historical knowledge of the three academics and one author who are good-naturedly locked in combat while umpire Ronald Hutton keeps everyone sweet and tops up the scores at the end of each round. Hutton is no dry-as-dust historian himself. When the contest gets around to the Bayeux Tapestry and the worn section that makes it difficult to decide whether, as all schoolchildren are told, it really was Harold who got a fatal eye, Hutton asks impishly: "So does the story hang by a thread?"

Reading Aloud. Radio 4, 11.40pm.

Dickens excels in so many other areas that it would be unreasonable to expect his gifts to extend to writing about travel. However, *American Notes* has its moments, and so has *Pictures from Italy* which contains *An Italian Dream*, read tonight by Derek Jacobi. Dickens was spellbound by La Serenissima. "It is the only thing," he wrote "that I have ever been afraid to describe." So, conventional methods having failed him, he had to make other arrangements and he writes about Venice as if in a dream. The challenge for Jacobi is to suggest this vocally. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 8.00am Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa (Anson) 2.00pm Kevin Greening 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session, with Steve Lamacq 8.00 In Concert Reading 9.00 Highlights of the best of this summer's big outdoor festivals 10.00 Mark Lamar 12.00 Classic Surfers 1.00am Chris Evans

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00 Martin Kahner 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Steve Wright at the Movies 7.20 Dance Band Dave 8.30 Big Band Special 8.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 On the Air, with Sheila Tracy and the BBC Big Band under Barry Forgie (4/6) 10.30 The Jamieson 12.05am Steve Madden 5.00am Alan Lister

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.30 The Magsaysi 10.00 Victory with Mar, incl 12.35pm Money check 2.05 Rescue on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Games that Changed Football: The 1985 clash between Spurs and Nottingham Forest 8.30 The Monday Match: Derby from Blackburn Rovers v. Dover County at Ewood Park, 10.00 News Talk, with Mike Baker 11.00 Night Edna, with Valerie Sandstrom 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight, with Linda McDermott and Tim Grundy 2.05am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Charlton 1.00pm Andrew Reesum 3.00pm Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Doolley 7.00 Sports Zone 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Versachi (Overture No 5 in B flat), Brahms (Piano Quintet in F minor, Op 34); Haydn (Symphony No 50 in C); Mozart (Piano in A minor); Prokofiev (Overture on Hebrew Themes); Wagner (Siegfried Idyll) 9.00 Morning Collection Includes Tchaikovsky (September, The Seasons); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 1 in E flat); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 2 in G); Prokofiev; Mozart (String Quartet in B flat) 10.00 Musical Encounters, Vivaldi (Flute Concerto in F); Anton O Virgo Splendens, Libera (Vernelli); Chopin (Etude in C sharp minor, Op 10 No 4); Waltz in D flat, Op 64 No 1); Smetana (Fantasy Chronical); Ravel (Rhapsodie); Beethoven (Piano Trio in D, Op 70 No 1); Grieg; Vienne (Symphony No 5, 'Fate'); Prokofiev (Oboe Sonata); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 14 in E flat) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Johannes Sebastian Bach 1.00pm News; Proms Chamber Music 1996. Live from the Britten Theatre at the Royal College of Music. Joana MacGregor, piano, Madeline Mitchell, violin, David Campbell, clarinet, and Christopher van Kampen, cello, includes Bach (Contra Altus 14, The Art of Fugue); Messiaen (Quartet for the End of Time) 2.10 Dolly Suite, Kalia and Mariela Labaque, pianos, Faure (Dolly Suite, Op 56) 2.30 BBC Proms 1996: Around the World in Eighty Minutes, A special Prom for children, introduced by Tony Robinson. New London's Choir, BBC Concert Orchestra under Ronald Corp 8.15 Interval 8.30 Proms Part 2 8.30 Class of 80: A British Jazz Decade. John Fordham presents the first of a new series looking at jazz in Britain today and some of the performers at the forefront of the so-called jazz revival, including Courtney Pine and Julian Joseph (11) 9.00 The Music Machine: Scales (1) 9.15 In Time. Presented by Andrew Green, includes Korngold (Film Music: The Sea Hawk, excerpts); Rachmaninov (Spring Waltz, Op 14 No 11); Beethoven (Sanctus, Mass in B minor); Beethoven (Piano Trio in D, Op 70 No 1); Grieg; Vienne (Symphony No 5, 'Fate'); Prokofiev (Oboe Sonata); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 14 in E flat) 10.00 Ensemble, with Panny Gore includes Grieg (Andante Con Moto in C minor); Chausson (Piano Trio in G minor, Op 3) 10.45 Midday, with Mark Russell and Robert Sandall 11.30 Composers of the Week: Falla, Gerhard and the Heritage of Spain (1) 12.00am Jazz Notes, with Dicky Fairweather 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 P.G. Woodhouse's Golf Stories: High Stakes, Read by the late Simon Cadell (1/2) 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week. Melvyn Bragg is joined by Sheila McAnea, Samir Zaki, Jonathan Miller and Lisa Jardine 10.00 News; Battling with the Past (FM), See Choice 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Story Box Live: 0771-580 4444 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Dylan Wint 12.25pm News of Britain 1996 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; The Last September, by Elizabeth Bowen. Dramatised by Nigel Gearing, and set in 1920s County Cork. The story of a girl on the brink of womanhood. With Anna Healy, Greg Wise and Charles Hersh (1/2) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Lynn Walker reads Margaret Atwood's book, *Alias Grace* and sees David Freeman's new production of *The Magic Flute* 4.45 Short Story: Lacy, by Carl Tighe 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 5.30 Newsdesk 5.30 Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Soundbite 7.30 Anywhere 7.15 On the Spot. Tender is at the Night (6.20) 8.30 The Voice Chart Show 9.15 20/20 10.05 Sports 10.15 Anything Goes 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.30 BBC English 11.45 On the Spot. Tender is at the Night (6.20) 12.30 Omnibus 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Any Kershaw 3.05 Outlook 3.20 John Peel 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 8.20 BBC 5.48 Britain Today 8.10 World Today 8.25 Take Five 8.30 News in German 7.30 Brain of Britain 9.01 Outlook 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Multitrack. He Laid 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 The Health of Planet Earth 10.45 Material World 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.10am Take Five 12.15 Record News 12.30 Multitrack. He Laid 1.30 Global Confessions 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Meridian 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Breakfast Show 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto Brian Vainin Concerto No 1 in G Op 26 3.00 James Glick 6.00 Classic Newsnight 6.30 Sonnets, Rodrigo 7.00 Glocosa 7.00 Celebrity Choice (1) 8.00 Evening Concert. Ravel, (Ma Mère L'Oye, Mother Goose), Debussy, (La Bohème à Jougous, The Boy Boy), Prokofiev, (Peter and the Wolf) 10.00 Michael Mappin 01.00 Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 8.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Robson 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Robson Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forsell 2.00am Jeremy Clark

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The unacceptable face of new police drama

Nothing had prepared me for the appearance of *Hypocrite* in *Harper and Lill* (BBC1, Saturday and Sunday). As Arthur "Pig" Maitland, the sadistic nightclub owner in Dennis Potter's *Kafka*, he had certainly been horrible, but here — as the jack-booted Assistant Chief Constable of a South Wales police force — we entered new realms of ugliness. Was repulsive too strong a word? On reflection: no.

Until he appeared, things had been progressing much as expected. *Harper* (Anne Hughes), a clean-cut and youthful-looking detective superintendent, turned up to investigate a case of manslaughter. First job: to see off a drunken and corrupt colleague who thought this was his patch. Second job: trying not to laugh when *Bennett* goose-stepped into shot as *lles*, his extraordinary-looking boss.

All plot was suspended while we

took in the vision before us. The word that eventually came to mind was... spherical. *Bennett's* hair — for so long his crowning, leading-man glory — had been swept back and plastered to his scalp by enough hair-oil to fill a supermarket bucket. Age and avoidance had softened those once chiselled features into a fleshy blur, but to stop us getting completely disoriented facial landmarks had been added. A pair of unregulation-length sideburns adorned the ears, while just going into orbit around his mouth was the forerunner of a goatee beard. The overall effect was of a hairy, pink snooker ball.

Things got little better when he opened his mouth. What came out was a low, menacing growl and an unbroken succession of perfectly formed sentences. "When I'm Chief Constable, you and I, *Harper*, will be all the law we need." "Ridiculous," I scribbled in my notebook. But I was wrong and

Bennett was absolutely right. *lles*, you see, was the one spark of originality in this two-part adaptation of a novel by Bill James. Without him, it was just a Welsh version of *Targgart* (the post-war *Cracker* exercise by shocking our soft-boned sensibilities. With him, well, it was still a pretty nasty little tale, but at least there was *Bennett's* stylised artifice to look forward to. "I'm here to enforce the natural order of sin and retribution," he thundered last night. "There may be redemption in heaven, but there's none on my patch."

Another Dennis Potter veteran, Jim Carter, played *Tenderness Mellick*, one of the two gangland bosses controlling the city. "Tenderness, that's irony," said a hired gun from Swansea, "we've done irony in school." The gunman's nickname was *Frenzy*. Three bodies later we discovered



Matthew Bond

that they don't go in much for irony in Swansea.

Nor do they go in much for imagination at BBC Wales. From third-degree burns to troublesome prostheses, we were spared little in the way of biological detail as *Mellick* set out to get back his kidnapped son and *Harper* and *lles* set out to get *Mellick*. The only times we were invited to use our imaginations was to

provide a so-called climax to each episode. In both cases this concerned the apparently violent and pointless death of a child, an event which surely has no part in weekend entertainment. In both cases all was not what it seemed, but by then the damage was done. It was a cheap, cynical and ill-timed dramatic device. If *Harper and Lill* are ever to return to the more of *Bennett's* style and less of this story's gratuitous realism.

If *Dangerfield* (BBC1) is ever to return for a fourth series... well, a miracle would come in handy. On Friday it returned for series three in quite terrible shape. *Dangerfield* (Nigel Le Vaillant) has run out of girlfriends, his one glamorous colleague (Amanda Redman) has moved on to dramas new, his children have been recast and his wife, of course, was written out by a fatal car crash before the first series was even filmed. Now even the photogenic Warwickshire

countryside has turned its back on him. As *Dangerfield* told his new bereavement counsellor (Jacqueline May at her most austere): "Nothing's ever lasted. They seem to give up on me eventually." On this evidence, I'm not a bit surprised.

Even the presence of Keith Allen as the unhinged chairman of the local police authority could not rescue this episode from its execrable dialogue and unbelievable plot. As for the contrived emotional climax — where a poem finally prompted our man to shed tears for his long-dead wife — it was ghastly.

Long-dead mummies were the subject of last night's *Equinox* (Channel 4), which launched a new series with *The Mystery of the Cocaine Mummies*. But any tears shed would have been tears of frustration. A German toxicologist, Svetla Balabanova, had analysed samples from mummies kept in a

Munich museum and found high levels of nicotine and cocaine. How could this possibly be, given that both substances are derived from plants only found in the Americas, a continent which as we all know was only discovered thousands of years later by the Vikings/Irish monks/Christophers/Columbus (delete as personal preference)? Well, I think, after due reflection, the answer is that nobody knows. Was there an ancient variety of tobacco grown in Africa, supplementing the lotus, mandrake and cannabis that the Ancient Egyptians were known to enjoy? Possibly — which at least explains the smile on the Sphinx's face. But in turn that poses questions: how did they get all that building done if they were all lying around stoned all day — let alone find the energy to discover the coca fields of South America?

● Lynne Truss is on holiday

REVIEW



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CHOICE

X Cars

BBC1, 8.30pm

The series about Greater Manchester Police's war on crime seems to assume a huge public appetite for watching huge car chases. Of course they make exciting footage, particularly when filmed at night as most of these are. And with a car stolen in Britain every second, the show will have a short run of material. But after two programmes of very similar content, *X Cars* seems to ring the variations. Meanwhile, viewers able to look beyond the surface thrill of roaring engines and screaming tyres may ponder the reckless mentality of young men who take cars for the fun of it, and of organised criminals who do so for darker reasons. The contempt for the police can be breathtaking. In one incident, the fugitive driver stops and rams the chasing police car three times before screaming off into the dark.

Cutting Edge: The Home

Channel 4, 9.00pm

Redmere Lodge in St Leonards, Sussex, may euphemistically call itself a rest home. The reality is that it is where old people, who cannot cope or have nobody to look after them, go to spend their final years. Patrick Watson's film, for all its sympathetic handling, cannot be other than profoundly sad. Elderly women, confused and inarticulate, try in vain to recall the names of husbands and sons. Another resident has had enough of her life and prays to God to take her away. Yet another talks of suicide. Young nurses, knowing their charges have come to the home to die, try to remain emotionally detached. Relatives feel guilty about abandoning elderly parents, but know there is no alternative. Watson presents his film without commentary. At the end he rightly thanks all concerned for their openness and honesty.

Out of the Blue

BBC1, 9.30pm

The police series ends another run, well crafted to the last. The case of a dead 14-year-old girl, which may be suicide or murder, brings out the show's usual flair for procedural detail. Leads are followed and sometimes draw a blank, witnesses are visited, suspects pulled in for questioning. The careerwork, less disconcerting than in the original series, helps to promote a veneer of gritty realism. The resident characters are well drawn and nicely varied. If the off-duty behaviour of the detectives has sometimes strained credibility, it can be argued that flawed cops make for better drama. There is nothing wrong with *Out of the Blue* except that it leaves the genre more or less where it found it. In the abundance of police shows on television, it fails to stand out.

Pioneers: Unlocking the Asylum

BBC2, 9.30pm

When David Clark, a young psychiatrist, took charge of Fulbourn mental hospital in Cambridge, in the 1950s, it reminded him of the German concentration camps he had seen as an army doctor. He found a repressive regime which inflamed the patients and brutalised the staff. The patients were virtual prisoners, many of them locked in for 24 hours a day and denied money or possessions. Clark recalls his determination to change this rigid culture. He opened the hospital up and allowed patients greater freedom, thereby defusing much tension and anger. More contentiously, he trained patients to take responsibility for their own lives. There were successes, as the film shows, but Clark's experiment in social therapy was ended by his successor. Fulbourn has fewer patients now but locked wards have returned. Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (9257847)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (9154480) 9.55 Regional News (922241) 10.00 The Time... the Place (9200489) 10.30 This Morning (9425525)

12.30pm Regional News (Teletext) (7305680)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (2410915)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (2494806) 1.25 Coronation Street (t) (Teletext) (s) (4263082) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (9700002) 2.25 Cuisine (9701048) 2.25 Look and Cook (1958557) 3.20 News (7122226)

3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7121277)

3.30 Tots TV Classics (t) (s) (920448) 3.40 The Slow Motion (s) (4572625) 3.50 Wolves, Wolves and Giants (s) (3707877) 4.05 Sooty and Co (s) 4.25 Scooby Doo (Teletext) (7754847)

4.30 How 2 1996. A new series (Teletext) (s) (7032438)

5.10 What's My Line? (5477052)

5.40 News (Teletext) and news (288606)

6.00 Home and Away (t) (Teletext) (486)

6.25 Regional News (Teletext) (752627) 6.50 Let's Go (989002)

7.00 The List. Entertainment guide (8828)

7.30 Coronation Street. Kevin gives Tricia a piece of his mind (Teletext) (825)

8.00 World in Action. Examining whether a series of nuclear accidents at an RAF base in Berkshire in the 1950s may now be responsible for a cluster of cancer cases in the area (Teletext) (s) (2248)

8.30 The Upper Hand Caroline produces the honeymoon photos (Teletext) (s) (4085)

9.00 FILM: Sleeping with the Enemy (1991). Julie Roberts plays an abused wife who is pursued by her husband when she escapes to start a new life. With Patrick Bergin and Kevin Anderson. Directed by Joseph Ruben. Continued after the news (Teletext) (s) (2034)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (28248)

10.30 Regional News (768830)

10.40 Sleeping with the Enemy. Concludes (Teletext) (s) (777828)

11.35 FILM: Best Friends (1982). A gentle romantic comedy about two screenwriters who try to share their personal as well as their professional lives. After living together for five years they decide to get married but they don't bargain for a honeymoon that involves meeting each other's families. With Ben Reynolds, Goldie Hawn and Jessica Tandy. Directed by Norman Jewison (912686)

1.35am Bushell on the Box (5147923) 2.00 Crime Hour (95958) 3.00 Big Match — Replayed (1043010) 3.40 Football (9525687) 4.05 News and (92427132) 4.30 The Time... the Place (78381) 5.00 Entertainment (53584)

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9.00 FILM: Sleeping with the Enemy (1991). Julie Roberts plays an abused wife who is pursued by her husband when she escapes to start a new life. With Patrick Bergin and Kevin Anderson. Directed by Joseph Ruben. Continued after the news (Teletext) (s) (2034)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (28248)

10.30 Regional News (768830)

10.40 Sleeping with the Enemy. Concludes (Teletext) (s) (777828)

11.35 FILM: Best Friends (1982). A gentle romantic comedy about two screenwriters who try to share their personal as well as their professional lives. After living together for five years they decide to get married but they don't bargain for a honeymoon that involves meeting each other's families. With Ben Reynolds, Goldie Hawn and Jessica Tandy. Directed by Norman Jewison (912686)

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MEMO TO UNIONS 46

Graham Searjeant says they should make workers owners

BUSINESS

ACCOUNTABLE 45

Analysts want to hear Prudential's banking intentions



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Planners target empty offices for extra London housing

By CARL MORTSHED

LONDON'S boroughs are being urged to convert acres of empty offices into flats and houses in order to provide for a huge increase in demand for accommodation in the capital. The proposals could mean a quadrupling of housing density in certain areas and a sharp reduction in provision for motor cars.

The London Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC) is sending a report to 32 boroughs that suggests measures that would make more dwellings available to

accommodate an anticipated 420,000 additional households — the equivalent of six new boroughs — in the next decade. That compares with current estimates that 234,000 new dwellings will become available within existing capacity.

LPAC, which was set up to coordinate planning policy after the abolition of the Greater London Council (GLC), states in its report that up to 65,000 more dwellings could be created by converting redundant offices into residential use.

The planning body also believes the shortfall in capacity could be alleviated by

greatly increasing housing density in London and making use of "windfall" opportunities, such as hospitals and government buildings which become available as a result of closure or a move to a new location.

John Lett, assistant chief planner at LPAC, claims that London needs to shift from planning for 85-120 habitable rooms per acre to levels of 300-400 per acre. "You are looking at tripling or quadrupling housing density," he said.

He explained that greater density would in part be achieved by reducing

provision for cars. Currently, local authorities plan for at least one parking space per dwelling but LPAC reckons that provision for cars should fall in developments close to important transport links, such as tube stations.

"We would like to get it to zero. We think there is a gap in the market where people are prepared to forego car parking where public transport is available." Such a change in policy would require extra investment in transport infrastructure, which could be linked to contributions from developers.

The initiative by the regional planning body, which is believed to have the support of the Department of the Environment's Government Office for London, coincides with a flurry of investments by property developers in landmark central London office buildings for conversion into residential units.

Galliard Homes recently acquired part of the Shell headquarters on the south bank of the Thames: the deal followed its conversion of part of the GLC's County Hall into flats. Last month, Berkeley Group bought Marathon House, a listed

1950s office building on the Marylebone Road; the housebuilder has plans for 100 luxury flats.

Geoff Marsh of London Property Research, whose research backs up the LPAC report, reckons that this is only the beginning of a trend driven by falling demand for office space as employers cut the number of white collar staff. Low office rents have increased the attraction of converting buildings into housing as affluent "empty nesters" move from the outer suburbs to Central London.

Deutsche to sack key fund chiefs

By ERIC REGULY

MORGAN GRENELL, the investment bank whose European unit trusts are being investigated by financial regulators, has promised in principle to pay compensation to investors in three funds whose trading was suspended last week. The compensation bill potentially could amount to tens of millions of pounds.

The compensation pledge is part of a programme by Deutsche Bank, Morgan Grenfell's owner, to restore public confidence. Deutsche has made it clear that it will demand the resignation of five or more senior managers at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management as soon as an investigation by Deutsche and the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation is completed in a month or so.

Imro is also expected to levy a stiff fine on Morgan Grenfell for failure to monitor Peter Young, the star fund manager who loaded his European Growth Trust and two other funds with unquoted securities of dubious value. Deutsche Bank has injected £180 million in cash to keep the funds afloat.

Imro is understood to have appointed Deloitte Touche, the accountancy firm, to revalue the three funds from the dates the unquoted shares were bought

to September 2, when trading in the funds was suspended. The funds, which collectively held £1.14 billion in savings from 90,000 investors, resumed trading on Thursday.

In a laborious exercise that could take several months, the accountants will check the valuation figure of the unquoted shares on each trading day since their purchase and compare it to their original valuation figure. If it is determined that the value assigned to the unquoted shares inflated the overall value of the funds, investors could expect to receive compensation cheques.

What is not certain is whether the investors who held on to their funds beyond September 2 should also be entitled to

compensation. The three funds lost about 5 per cent of their market value on Thursday and Friday as investors withdrew almost £150 million of holdings. The problem for these investors is determining how much of the fall was due to normal market forces and how much was due to what Imro calls "irregularities". The MG funds fell much more than other European trust prices.

Deutsche Bank intends to replace several of the top Morgan Grenfell managers in direct line of responsibility. Mr Young, who has had his passport and assets seized, has been replaced by Stuart Mitchell at the European Growth Fund and the European Capital Growth Fund, and by Julian Johnston at the Europa Fund.

The careers of Keith Percy, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, Glyn Owen, chief investment officer, and Mike Wheatley, the compliance director of fund management business, are in question. A Morgan executive said no resignations were expected this month. "The priority is to get the investigation done," he said.

The Serious Fraud Office has been kept informed of the investigation's progress and may launch an investigation of its own if Imro suspects that Mr Young's management of the funds was motivated by fraudulent efforts to enrich himself.



Young: loaded funds



Richard Kilsby, front, and Stuart Paul-Clark are out to attack market abuse

SE on the trail of two big insider dealing rings

By JON ASHWORTH AND ROBERT MILLER

OFFICIALS of the London Stock Exchange are investigating at least two major insider-dealing rings that are believed to have syphoned millions of pounds of illegal profits from the market.

The suspected rings are key targets of a campaign led by Richard Kilsby, the exchange's director of market services, and Stuart Paul-Clark, head of surveillance, to sharpen the exchange's attack on market abuse with a powerful real-time computer monitoring system.

One ring is understood to operate through a special Channel Islands trust based in Jersey. Those involved, well-known market players, regularly switch between brokers dealing on an execution-only basis. This lets them disguise trades and make it harder for investigators to follow their trail. Investigators believe that the Jersey-based trust deals in shares ahead of price-sensitive information being released to the market, to the benefit of ring members and the detriment of other investors.

The investigations are part of a Stock Exchange campaign to stamp out market abuse. Since Gavin Casey's arrival last month as Stock Exchange chief executive, fighting market fraud has gone to the top of the agenda. There have been few convictions since insider dealing became an offence in Britain in 1980, in contrast to the US, where investigators can "cut a deal" with suspects.

Mr Casey, formerly with Smith New Court, the broker

subsequently taken over by Merrill Lynch, sees market abuse — and insider dealing in particular — as harmful to London's standing as one of the world's leading financial centres. Frankfurt, Paris and other rival centres are quick to seize on any perceived failure.

Under notice, page 46

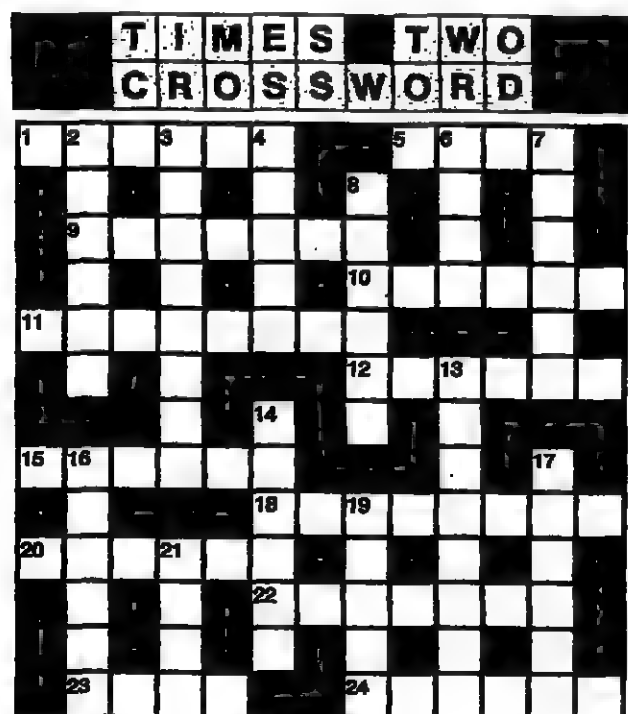
UK fund managers lose heart

UK fund managers polled by Gallup for Merrill Lynch, have become less optimistic about world equity markets for the next three months. The 80 managers polled were most pessimistic on US market, with bears outnumbering bulls 48 per cent.

For continental European bulls outnumbered bears 30 per cent. For the UK market, bulls outnumbered bears by a slim 1 per cent, compared with 16 per cent in August.

Mining

Shareholding miners at Tower Colliery South Wales have seen the pit's profits rise to £2.35 million in the first half (£1.9 million). Eight jobs will be created this week.



No 882

ACROSS

- 1 Lion's-den man (6)
- 2 George Bernard —, dramatist (4)
- 9 Prosecute (eg President) (7)
- 10 Lower-leg ornament (6)
- 11 Convulsion, attack (5)
- 12 Break (speed limit) (6)
- 15 Thinly scattered (6)
- 18 Peaceful (8)
- 20 A sweet; a nothing (6)
- 22 Irish girl (7)
- 23 Open (eg orange) (4)
- 24 Lab. vessel; sharp reply (6)

DOWN

- 2 Creature (6)
- 3 Not correct; unseemly (8)
- 4 Green (suburb) (5)
- 6 Hamlet knew one from a hand saw (5)
- 7 Scheme; breathe noisily (6)
- 8 Disgraced (6)
- 13 Victory (8)
- 14 Find by sleuthing (6)
- 16 Show more interest (4,2)
- 17 Main meal (6)
- 19 More competent (5)
- 21 Join; circuit-breaker (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 881

ACROSS: 1 High-hat 5 Wreak 8 Mused 9 Rag week 10 Book learning 12 Castor 14 Pollux 17 Hadrian's Wall 21 Anguish 22 Roger 23 Morse 24 Shelter

DOWN: 1 Humpback 2 Gusto 3 Hidalgo 4 Throat 5 Wagon 6 Eternal 7 Ko-Ko 11 Explorer 13 Swagger 15 Observe 16 Bathos 18 Rhine 19 Argot 20 Calm

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UK loses allure for foreign firms

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BRITAIN has fallen from first to ninth in a list of countries where foreign companies plan to build factories or offices, according to a survey out today. Germany has become the most popular European country for inward investment, the survey, in *Corporate Location* magazine, shows. It suggests that cash grants to foreign firms, with which Britain cannot compete, may have given Germany the edge.

The survey suggests that huge investments in Britain, such as those made recently by LGI, of Korea, and Siemens, of Germany, may become rarer. Britain was voted top location for foreign investment in 1994 and 1995, the survey shows, but has this year been

toppled by China, in first place, and Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Germany, Malaysia, India and Poland.

The magazine, which polled 100 senior managers in companies in north America, Asia and Western Europe, said that 27 per cent of respondents said last year that the UK was on their shortlist for at least one investment within three years. This year, the figure has fallen to 14 per cent.

Philip Swinden, the editor, said that this might be because of reluctance to decide before a general election, slow growth in the semiconductor industry, and Germany "beginning to lure companies with enormous cash grants that the UK simply cannot compete with".

BA warns of flight cuts if deal blocked

BRITISH AIRWAYS has told the Office of Fair Trading that, if its proposed global alliance with American Airlines is blocked, it will stop flying to nine out of its 22 US destinations (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The OFT is expected to report to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, this week on whether the alliance should be cleared or referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The US Department of Transport, the American regulator, is also set to report its findings on the alliance soon.

BA said that, without the alliance, it will begin losing the important "transfer" passengers who fly to Heathrow for a connecting BA flight to the US.

Slot shake-up, page 45

Union leaders fear Maastricht misery

EMU 'a threat to jobs'

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOBS will be jeopardised if Britain moves into European monetary union with tight convergence criteria, trade union leaders claimed yesterday. Their fears highlight a growing concern within the trade union movement, which has hitherto supported Britain joining a European currency from the start.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union, said the Maastricht tests are "going to be extremely deflationary and will push us back into recession." He urged a widening of the criteria. With-

out measures to protect employment, he said the Maastricht Treaty will be a "misery". He said his union had backed the TUC's stance on early entry on balance because Britain would be worse off outside monetary union. Bill Morris, head of the T&G union, also fuelled fears on the impact on jobs of monetary union in a warning over a squeeze on public expenditure that would almost inevitably mean lost jobs in the public sector.

The AEEU stressed that job protection programmes and

job creation targets were essential parts of a move towards monetary union. Ken Jackson, general secretary, maintained currency convergence need not take a huge toll on jobs if priority were given to measures to safeguard employment. But the TUC seems unlikely to compromise its position, with the argument that Britain may lose more by staying out.

John Monks, general secretary of the union organisation, said the TUC would push for a flexible application of the Maastricht criteria.



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Faction chief begs America for help after Iraqis are accused of backing new advance

Kurds flee towards Iran border as more towns fall

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA, MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THOUSANDS of Kurds fled towards the Iran border yesterday as a Kurdish faction, ousted from Arbil by Iraqi troops over a week ago, lost control of two more towns in heavy fighting with a rival faction and its leader begged Washington to intervene.

Refugees raced for the border in coaches, lorries, minibuses, cars and even bulldozers loaded with beds, utensils and television sets. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) maintained that President Saddam Hussein's forces had been in action again inside the northern no-fly zone to help the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) to capture the towns of Degala and Koi Sanjak.

"Iraqi troops supported by KDP tanks and artillery have taken Degala. I can confirm that Degala has fallen," said the PUK's London representative, Latif Rashid. The group said that the town of Koi Sanjak, 60 miles southeast of Arbil, had also fallen in the face of overwhelming Iraqi firepower. Many of its 80,000 inhabitants were fleeing towards the village of Rania, near the Iranian border.

Western observers were unable to confirm that Iraqi forces entrenched near Degala had been involved, but said it was likely they had supplied the KDP with ammunition and weapons. A KDP radio station said its forces had killed 300 PUK members and demanded that the rest surrender. It denied it had helped from Baghdad.

Degala is just outside Koi Sanjak, 60 miles northwest of Sulaimaniya, the PUK's last stronghold. Its loss would leave the KDP in control of most of northern Iraq, enabling Saddam indirectly to extend his influence up to the Turkish border, diplomats said.

"We call on the US and its coalition partners to intervene urgently to halt the Iraqi

aggression and end this onslaught against the Kurdish people," the PUK said. Its leader, Jalal Talabani, complained that the US missile strikes on southern Iraq last week had failed to prevent Saddam attacking the Kurdish-held north. He repeated a warning that he would have to call on Iran for support if Washington ignored him.

The US has said it will not take sides in the Kurdish conflict. Iraqi opposition groups accused Washington of turning a blind eye to the fact that Iraqi forces have dug in south of Arbil after helping the KDP fighters to capture the city nine days ago.

The Clinton Administration said yesterday it would not "stand idly by" if Iraqi forces

suppressed the Kurdish people in the north, but played down their role in the reported fall of Degala and Koi Sanjak. General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, portrayed the fighting as one Kurdish faction trying to wrest territory from its rival. Saddam's troops were undoubtedly helping the KDP, but they amounted to just "a few hundred here and a few hundred there... certainly in the hundreds and not in the thousands".

Saddam wrecked a covert CIA operation to destabilise his regime when his forces seized Arbil. They ransacked the headquarters of the CIA-sponsored Iraqi National Congress, which the US set up to foment and co-ordinate opposition to Saddam. They killed more than 100 Iraqi and Kurdish members of the operation and captured hundreds of other suspects.

A handful of CIA officers based in the outskirts of Arbil escaped north to Turkey the day before Saddam's troops arrived, according to weekend reports in both *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*.

Tension has been steadily mounting between Turkey and Iraq because of Turkish plans to establish a security zone inside northern Iraq to guard against cross-border attacks by rebel Turkish Kurds of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) based in mountain fastnesses there.

"We will take every necessary action to prevent it [the buffer zone]," said Hamed Youssef Hammadi, head of the culture and information committee of Iraq's parliament. It was Baghdad's strongest warning yet to its neighbour. Iran also condemned the Turkish plans.

Turkey said yesterday it ultimately planned to monitor Kurdish rebel activity in northern Iraq with an electronic system, eliminating any need to keep troops there.



Kurdish Democratic Party fighters with Kalashnikovs and rocket-propelled grenades take up position on a hill near Degala, which is reported to have fallen to them yesterday with the assistance of Iraqi forces

Fragile rebel alliances fall prey to shifting sands of Gulf politics

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN KALE CHALAWAN

A WEEK of Baghdad offensives, American retaliation and fighting between Kurdish factions has destroyed what little remains of a precarious set of alliances in place in northern Iraq since the Gulf War.

In Kale Chalawan, a mountain fortress above Sulaimaniya, the principal city he still controls, Jalal Talabani is trying to regroup the troops of his Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). Having been driven from the administrative capital of Arbil 70 miles away, Mr Talabani now faces a set of fresh offensives by the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which is backed by Iraqi troops.

Mr Talabani referred scathingly to Massoud Barzani, the KDP leader, as little more than an "Iraqi mercenary".

Despite having lost Arbil, the PUK claimed a pyrrhic victory, having forced the KDP to abandon decades of opposition to Baghdad and to seek help from President Saddam Hussein.

Long regarded as being in alliance with Iran, Mr Talabani now praises America for trying to punish Saddam's forces. But he complained that, instead of attacking "the forces that committed the crimes in Arbil", the Americans pursued their own strategic interests by bombing air defences in the south.

Speaking at KDP headquarters in Salahaddin, north of Arbil, Mr Barzani was even more sceptical of US motives. "We would have been pleased if the raids had been for the sake of the Kurds instead of an election campaign." Although the KDP was once regarded as the Kurdish group most in line with American interests, those close to the party's leadership say that letters to the State Department, warning of a planned

infiltration. Two years later the fighters of the two groups were not even answered.

PUK-Iranian offensive, were not even answered.

Mr Barzani, for years the leader of a guerrilla resistance, now presents himself as an Iraqi patriot defending his country against the external aggressor, Iran. This stand calls into question the entire premise of Operation Provide Comfort, the allied military action after the Gulf War to protect Iraqi Kurds from the Baghdad Government.

Senior KDP advisers still hope that Provide Comfort will remain, if only to protect them from the full consequences of their deal with Saddam. Sami Abdul Rahman, a senior Barzani aide, said the KDP was willing to accept a truce but the PUK could not do so for risk of offending Tehran. Mr Talabani said he would not negotiate with the KDP until it renounced its collaboration with Baghdad.

US pushes for Israel to resume Syria talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

EFFORTS to secure the resumption of peace talks with Syria, stalled since February, are expected to dominate talks in Washington today between Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and President Clinton, the second such meeting since Labour's defeat in Israel's May election.

On the eve of Mr Netanyahu's departure, Itamar Rabinowitz, until a week ago Israel's Ambassador in Washington, disclosed that the United States had been trying to revive the Syrian peace talks through secret contacts with Damascus.

"The administration has not abandoned hope of bringing about such a development in the next few weeks, or certainly the next few months," he said.

Early last month, Israel submitted a formal paper expressing its willingness to resume talks at the Wye Plantation in eastern Maryland. Recent Syrian moves have caused anxiety about President Assad's intentions and increased the sense of urgency for a resumption of talks.

As *The Jerusalem Post* commented: "The recent talk of crisis and even war with Syria show how little we still know about policies and objectives in Damascus. Missile tests, irregular movement of Syrian troops, and an increased US naval presence off the coast of Lebanon created an atmosphere of tension and uncertainty."

With the Israel-Palestinian talks now back on track, Israeli sources said the Prime Minister feels free to return his attention to the more difficult task of securing a substantive dialogue with Damascus. Recent statements by Mr Netanyahu and David Levy, his Foreign Minister, have made it clear that Israel is willing to negotiate over the Golan Heights—the return of which is demanded by Mr Assad as the *sine qua non* of resuming contact.

Turkish Cypriot soldier killed

Nicosia: A Turkish Cypriot soldier was shot dead yesterday near a British military base on the line dividing Cyprus (Michael Theodoulou writes).

Tension along the line has been running high since last month's anti-Turkish demonstrations resulted in the deaths of two Greek Cypriots. Turkey

said two Greek Cypriot civilians were responsible for the incident and the veteran Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, blamed the Greek Cypriot leadership for inciting the violence. "The blood of Turks has been drunk once again," he said.

The Greek Cypriot authorities announced there would be

an inquiry, but the Cyprus Government spokesman suggested Turkish agents provocateurs were to blame. The investigation into the violence was interrupted last night after an explosive device was found near the site of the shooting. A British Army bomb disposal squad made the device safe.

Kashmir poll starts peacefully

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BARAMULLA

INDIA'S attempt to restore democracy to Kashmir after six years of direct rule has taken a stride forward in the first round of state elections. Intimidation of voters by government forces was minimal and grassroots enthusiasm was unexpectedly high — signs that Kashmir might have turned the corner towards eventual peace.

Saturday's voting, to be followed by three more rounds over the next month, was in a sensitive area around Baramulla, once the heart of the separatist uprising. Now it seems relatively peaceful.

Polling stations brimmed with people waiting to vote under the watchful eye of security forces whose conduct was immeasurably better than in parliamentary elections in May. Then, they herded people to ballot boxes at gunpoint. This time they were more restrained, although there was some heavy-handed "encouragement" of voters to turn out.

Although in many ways a flawed poll, it will be widely seen as a successful move towards restoring credible local government nine years after the last state elections — which, like almost all the others in the past half century, was substantially rigged.

Allegations of "booth capturing" and rigging flowed all day between rival political parties on Saturday but there was no evidence of a co-ordinated official campaign. Who wins is not crucially important to the Indian Government, since the victor will be pro-Indian. All the separatist parties boycotted the election.



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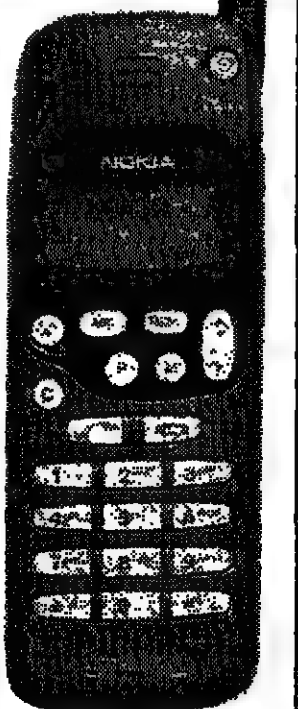
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Monetary union puts pressure on France to master market forces

Standing in a dusty village square in Pithou a week or two ago, I watched a peculiar, silent French ritual.

Into the square came a dozen weather-beaten country people holding a ring of string. Inside the string walked two buttermilk-coloured cows.

The stately little procession walked round the square and out again without unfurling any banners or shouting a single slogan. I asked Mme Vachon, the ironmonger, what was going on. She shrugged and guessed that it was all to do with "mad cow" disease. She was right: the



cows were on their way to join the rest of the herd which nibbled the grass under the Eiffel Tower in protest at the suffering which the collapse of the beef market is causing

in the French countryside. The farmers think that the Government in Paris should rescue them from loss or bankruptcy. They believe that the State exists not merely to mitigate or minimise the suffering of those who lose but to master economic forces. Most French people think the same. France is well-placed to thrive in the global economy, but its beleaguered politicians are still expected to master these vast forces.

It is a tall order. The late President Mitterrand's answer was a franc as strong as the Deutschmark and a single currency in which France

would moderate the German central bank's power over the French economy.

The strength of the franc fort explains why there were fewer British tourists in France this summer. It also helps to explain why the French economy is so flat and is creating no new jobs.

The taboo on questioning the wisdom of monetary union remains strong in Paris, but is fading in the face of terrifying unemployment figures. "Europe has broken down, but France keeps quiet," Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader, said the other day. But the most eloquent

cries for help come from the MPs who face a general election in the spring of 1998.

Listen to Thierry Mariani, the Gaullist from the Vaucluse in Provence, driven frantic by the insistence of the government spin doctors that the present policies will work in time: "You don't get cured by just yelling. We're going to be cured. Whatever people say, I've never known a depressed climate like this. Around here, the National Front is at 25 per cent, the Socialists are climbing and the people are fed up with us."

Because the French Government faces an autumn of discontent — truculent public sector unions meet tomorrow — and will have difficulty squeezing its deficit under the Maastricht limit, attention focuses on the next few months. Suppose the French economy can, by statistical sleight of hand, be slipped into monetary union.

M. Mariani was thinking further ahead. To the political costs of a permanently deflated economy under Frankfurt discipline. Meanwhile, the Germans worry about whether the system is disciplined enough. Two years ago, Karl Lamers,

a senior German MP, pointed out that the EU needed a far tighter political system if a single currency was to work. Although he caused a storm elsewhere, he was really posing a question to French colleagues across the Rhine: do you really understand what you have agreed to do in a monetary union?

Her Lamers never got a reply. More recently, Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, floated a narrower scheme which headed in the same direction. His "stability pact", which European finance ministers

discuss in Ireland later this month, proposes huge automatic fines on states using the euro which run excessive public deficits. If the pact had been in place in the past two years, France would have paid the equivalent of two percentage points of its gross domestic product and its ministers would have had a hard time convincing people that they were in charge of economic events. French voters might have realised that a single currency involves a loss of power and not a gain.

Leading article, page 21

GEORGE BROCK

Pol Pot shunned as rebel faction opts for peace deal

FROM JAMES PRINGLE, CHECKPOINT SIX, THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER

A LEADER of the Khmer Rouge will today announce an extraordinary switch from Maoist communism to capitalism to open the final chapter in the bloody history of the movement.

A Khmer Rouge rebel faction is throwing open its secret base on Phnom Malai mountain for a press conference at which Ieng Sary, the renegade leader, will announce peace settlement terms with the Cambodian Government. It is being seen as one of the last acts in the long Indo-China wars, his aides said yesterday.

Officers in the Thai Army, which has helped to broker the deal between Ieng Sary's faction and Phnom Penh, say reporters will be taken across the border into Cambodia and flown to the base, where earlier this year guerrillas fought off a fierce air and ground assault by government troops, killing hundreds.

Cambodia's leaders said at the weekend that the Khmer Rouge rebels had agreed that all their forces would join the Government as "one state, one territory and one national administration".

In an interview here, Long Norin, a long-time senior member of the Khmer Rouge who is now with the rebels, said the last stumbling block

was the question of a royal pardon for Ieng Sary, who was sentenced to death in absentia for genocide by the Hanoi-backed regime, placed in power during the 1978 Vietnamese invasion that overthrew the murderous regime of Pol Pot.

Long Norin, the general secretary of the new Democratic National United Movement, said that the rebels hoped to form a party to enter Cambodia's political mainstream and contest elections in 1998. In an allusion to the issue that led to what he called "the uprising" last month, he said that it might be called the OX-Cart Party because Ta Mok, Pol Pot's lieutenant, had ordered that ox-carts and other personal property be collectivised.

The 58-year-old cadre was an aide to Ieng Sary since the rebel leader was Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in the 1975-78 Democratic Kampuchea Government, under whose rule a million Cambodians were killed.

He said Khmer Rouge hardliners under Pol Pot, such as Nuon Chea, "Brother No 2", Ta Mok, the one-legged general, and Son Sen, the defence chief, were isolated, doubting the loyalty of their

diminishing band of troops. Pol Pot, 68, is at Anlong Veng in northern Cambodia, along with Khmer Rouge moderate officials headed by Khieu Samphan, the former Prime Minister, who Long Norin claims want to join the rebels in making peace with Phnom Penh.

Pol Pot, according to Long Norin, continues to want to "fight, fight, fight" government forces. He said that Ta Mok, Nuon Chea and Son Sen were marooned south of here after last month's revolt.

With Pol Pot having lost the former Khmer Rouge heartland from Phnom Malai to Pailin, with its gem mines and timber resources, and with a diminished fighting force, the movement has been gutted, analysts say.

Long Norin said that many Khmer Rouge were shocked when "Brother No 1" took a second wife after his first wife, sister of Ieng Sary's wife, went insane.

"For years Pol Pot urged his followers to take only one wife, but then he breached his own rule and lost the respect of many combatants," Long Norin said. He added, however, that the 67-year-old Ieng Sary's break with his brother-in-law came over political, not personal, issues.

Racists boo black winner of Miss Italy

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE election of a black girl as Miss Italy was hailed yesterday as an historic victory for race relations in Italy. However, Denny Mendez, 18, was booed and whistled by what the contest organisers described as a "black minority" in the audience, and the choice appeared to have stirred up further controversy rather than resolved it.

The Miss Italy competition, normally a bland and old-fashioned beauty contest, became politically charged last week when Bob Krieger, a fashion photographer, was expelled from the jury for saying that "a black girl cannot possibly become Miss Italy". He said Italian women were either white skinned or "Mediterranean types".

Members of the audience made clear their preference for Maria Mazza, a brunette from Naples who came third, and barracked Signorina Mendez. Votes phoned in by television viewers were overwhelmingly in favour of Signorina Mendez, who came to Tuscany from the Dominican Republic five years ago when her mother married an Italian.

Signorina Mendez, clearly overcome, said she thought her victory "shows that Italy is changing". She said she had not minded the booing "because I feel Italian".



Denny Mendez, who left the Dominican Republic five years ago, breaks down after she is crowned Miss Italy. The contest turned into a test case over attitudes to race

Thyssens accuse son over fortune

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A DISPUTE simmering within one of Europe's richest families erupted into the open yesterday when Carmen Cervera, the flamboyant fourth wife of Baron Hans-Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, accused her husband's eldest son from a previous marriage of "appropriating \$350 million (£225 million)" from his father's coffers.

The Spanish-born Baroness Thyssen, a former beauty queen, made the accusation against Georg Heinrich Thyssen in an interview with the Madrid newspaper ABC. The Baron, who was also present, supported his wife's allegations, adding several bitter interjections of his own.

The story has all the trappings of a glossy soap opera: Middle European aristocracy, an ailing patriarch, his glamorous and much younger wife, immense wealth and an allegedly thankless child.

A serious stroke suffered in 1994 caused the Baron to hand over charge of the Thyssen Group — which owns, among other concerns, the Heineken breweries — to his oldest son Georg, with an arrangement for monies to be paid to the father and family regularly. According to the Baroness, however, Georg has failed to make the payments.

Baron Thyssen said: "It was a bad idea to hand over charge to him. It is a great disappointment when your own son wants to usurp your business and to take advantage of your circumstances."

The Baroness also accuses the son of being hostile to the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum in Madrid, from whose governing board Georg was recently dismissed.



Baroness Thyssen made the family dispute public

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-minister is charged over killing

Brussels: Alain van der Biest, 53, a former Belgian minister, has been charged with killing André Cools, a former deputy Prime Minister, the prosecutor's office said.

Van der Biest is the fifth person to be charged over the murder: his former secretary, Richard Taxquet, has also been indicted. The others are Carlo Todarello, Cosimo Solazzo and Domenico Castellino, all relatives or associates of Mr Taxquet. Mr Cools, a former Socialist Party chief, was shot dead on July 18, 1991. (AFP)

Russians leave

Moscow: The first contingent of thousands of Russian troops began pulling out of Chechnya yesterday in the clearest signal yet that a week-old peace deal with Chechen rebels is being carried out.

Islands protest

Hong Kong: Thousands of Hong Kong Chinese marched and carried banners to protest against Japan's claim to the Diaoyu islands, north of Taiwan, called the Senkakus by the Japanese. (AP)

Wedding deaths

Hyderabad: Thirty-five people drowned when an overcrowded lorry carrying an Indian wedding party careered off a bridge at Cuddapah and plunged into a flood-swollen river. (Reuters)

Aid workers die

Geneva: The Red Cross has suspended its operation for Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaïre for a week after two of its workers were killed and 34 wounded when a landmine blew up their bus. (AFP)

Moi pardon

Nairobi: President Moi of Kenya, at a mass rally, pardoned two self-confessed guerrillas who asked for their forgiveness after saying they had been trained to overthrow his Government. (Reuters)

UN aid team reaches Liberian 'hell' town

FROM REUTERS IN ROME

A UNITED NATIONS aid agency said yesterday it would deliver the first food for eight months today to the besieged town of Tubmanburg in western Liberia where relief workers found "a living hell" of starving people.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said a team that reached the jungle town at the weekend believed more than half its estimated 35,000 inhabitants were suffering from extreme hunger.

Tarek Elguindi, the WFP's Liberia director, said after visiting the town, 45 miles northwest of Monrovia, the capital: "The children have swollen bellies, their eyes are

swollen, their skin is cracked and in some cases the flesh on the feet has fallen off."

The Rome-based WFP and other aid agencies took advantage of peace moves by rival factions in Liberia's conflict to enter Tubmanburg, which had been cut off by fighting since February. "I've never seen such a massive number of hungry people," Mr Elguindi said. "When I saw the situation, I started to cry."

There has been civil war in Liberia since 1989, and more than 150,000 people have died. Mr Elguindi said other areas of the country could be enduring similar conditions to Tubmanburg.



Baroness Thyssen made the family dispute public

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مركز من الرمال

At war over the field of genes

American maize, genetically modified so that it is pest-resistant, could have damaging human and environmental effects, claims Europe. Nigel Hawkes reports

The first big argument over a genetically engineered crop is brewing. It has split the European Community, with Britain voting against its approval. If the argument is not quickly resolved, it could even lead to a trade war between Europe and the US. The product is maize — what the Americans call corn, genetically modified so that it is resistant to a common pest, the European corn-borer.

Every year, say Ciba Seeds who have developed the new variety, about 7 per cent of the world's maize is lost to the corn-borer, a voracious creature which eats its way through the stalks of the crop. Maize is one of the world's biggest crops, with production this year expected to reach 567 million tonnes. The grain bulk goes to feed animals, with about a fifth going into a variety of human foods.

The argument is not over the use of processed maize in human or animal food, since processing destroys the genes at the centre of the issue. But the European position, if maintained, would prevent the importation of unprocessed maize, and the sale of the genetically-modified seed for planting in Europe.

Ciba's new maize defeats the corn-borer by incorporating a gene originally discovered in a soil bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis*. The gene makes a protein which is toxic to the larvae of the corn-borer, but not to other insects. These larvae, to their cost, possess an enzyme in their stomachs which cleaves the protein in a particular way to release the toxin.

Since 1980 the *Bt* protein has been widely used as a spray against the corn-borer, and is benign enough to be approved for use even by organic farmers. But spraying it in the few days that elapse between the emergence of the larvae and their disappearance into the stems of the plants calls for brilliant timing: too late and they are already inside and

out of danger. So Ciba Seeds decided to incorporate the gene into the maize itself. They used a "gene gun" — a technique in which the DNA is coated on to tiny particles which are then fired into the plant cells. This approach works, but in only a tiny minority of the cells — according to Dr Elke Jarchow of Ciba-Geigy, about one in 100,000 is



Maize at risk from the corn-borer

likely to take up the gene.

This creates two problems. First, a huge amount of the gene is needed, which means multiplying it up by growing it in bacteria. To find which bacteria have taken up the gene, a second, "marker" gene is attached. This is a gene which confers resistance to the antibiotic ampicillin.

The bacteria which have taken up the genes can then be identified by treating the whole batch with ampicillin — those that survive the antibiotic have taken up both the marker and the *Bt* gene.

Once the gene has been multiplied, it is introduced by the gene gun into the plant cells. But since only one cell in 100,000 takes it up, a technique is needed to work out which it is. "Otherwise," says Dr Jarchow, "we would need to grow

100,000 plants just to find the one that is resistant to the corn-borer, and that isn't practicable."

For this, a second marker gene is used, this time one that confers resistance to a common class of pesticides called gluphosinates. This makes it possible to identify the cells containing the gene by treating the whole batch with the pesticide and seeing which survive. The result is a maize with three foreign genes: the *Bt* gene, the ampicillin-resistance gene, and the gluphosinate-resistance gene. It is, says Dr Jarchow, "a breakthrough in maize seed development".

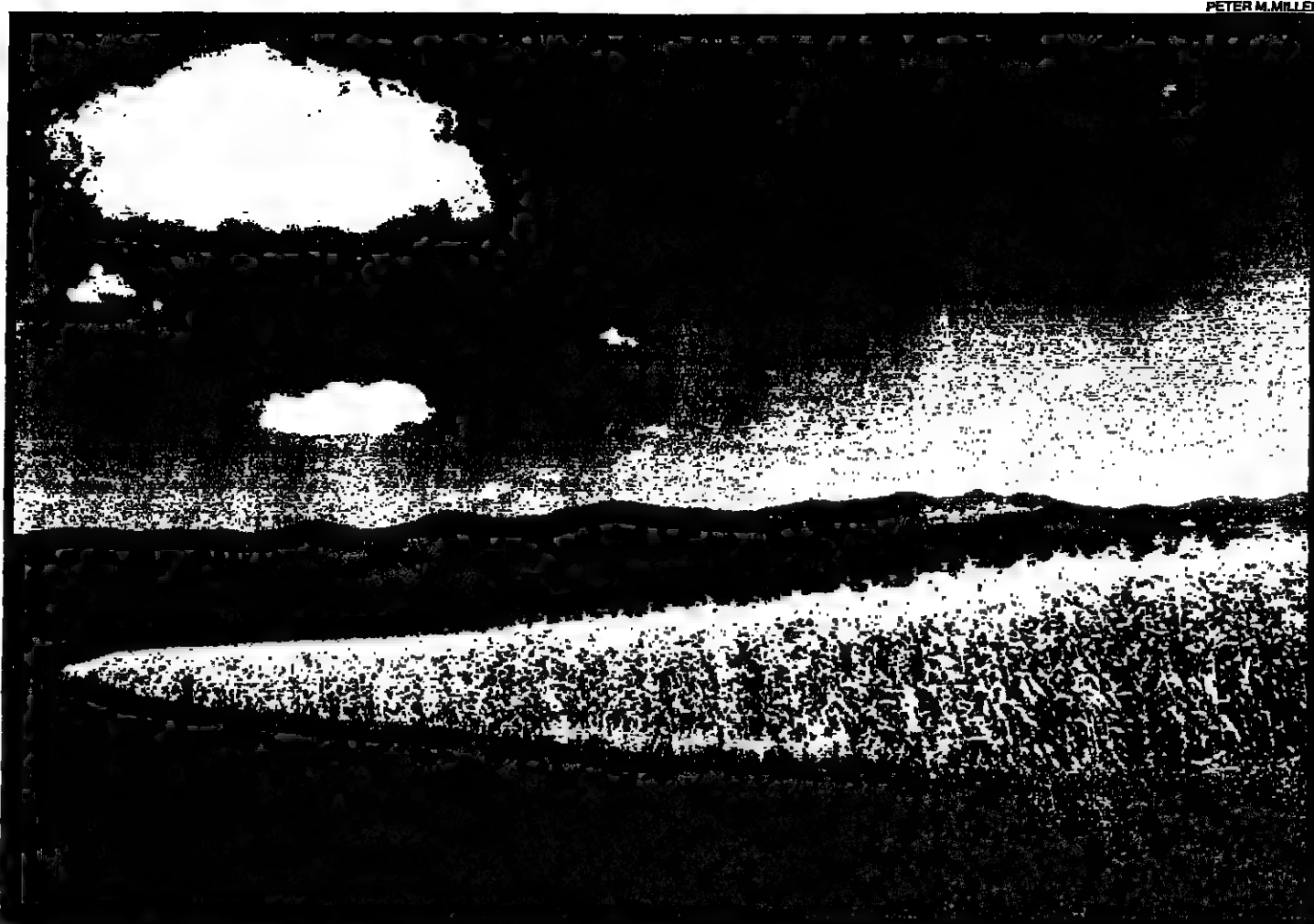
But is it safe? Britain's Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes thought not, arguing that the presence of a gene carrying resistance to beta-lactam antibiotics such as ampicillin posed "an unacceptable risk". The fear is that the gene might transfer to the gut bacteria of animals which ate the unprocessed maize, and from there get into human beings.

Sweden, Denmark and Austria had different objections, fearing that the modified plants would have damaging environmental effects. But unlike the British committee, the Europeans focused on the herbicide-resistant gene.

The French thought the advantages of a clean crop and better yields outweighed any possible drawbacks. When it came to a vote in the Council of Environmental Ministers on June 26, the modified maize failed to win even a qualified majority.

Britain, Sweden, Denmark and Austria voted against. Germany, Greece, Italy and Luxembourg abstained. France, Finland, Belgium, Ireland, The Netherlands, Portugal and Spain voted in favour.

This left Europe in a dilemma, as the product has already been approved in the US and Canada.



An American maize field — but the sale of its genetically modified crop in Europe could break EU rules and start a trade war

"Our expert committees looked very carefully at the issues and gave the plant a 100 per cent bill of health," an official at the US Embassy in London said. "None of the questions raised in Europe has caused us to reconsider."

The first US maize crop which includes some genetically modified plants is about to be harvested. There is no possibility of segregating the modified crop from the rest. According to Ciba Seeds, about 0.6 per cent of the 238 million tonnes of maize the US expects to harvest this year will be the genetically

modified variety. And it will expect to get free access to the European market for this crop; last year it sold \$500 million worth of maize to Europe as animal feed, primarily to Spain and Portugal.

Faced with the impasse, the European Commission has asked three scientific committees to look at the evidence. These committees — on animal nutrition, food, and pesticides — are expected to take some time to complete their deliberations. Meanwhile any importation of the maize would be a breach of EU rules, and the US and the EU

"would be entering into an area of trade disagreement," a Commission spokesman said last week.

Ciba argues that the objections raised in Europe are all erroneous. "We looked carefully to make sure that we weren't putting a valuable antibiotic at risk by including the antibiotic-resistance gene," says Dr Jarchow. "We concluded we weren't, and American and Canadian experts agree. There is no evidence that a gene can jump from a plant to a gut bacterium in the stomach of an animal. We feel very certain that it is safe."

The UK's experts disagree, as does the pressure group Genetics Forum. "We urged the British Government to oppose the application and stick to the scientific advice they were given," says Julie Sheppard, the forum's spokeswoman. "We are delighted that they did." Whether that opposition can be sustained in the face of a fierce onslaught from the US remains to be seen. Ciba's product may be a gene too far for the Europeans, but the issue is not going to disappear. Too much money rests on the outcome.

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science, which meets this week in Birmingham, will be loud with the sound of lamentation over the neglect of science in Britain. It has become an article of faith that this neglect is long-standing and cultural, and that we are now paying the price in industrial competitiveness.

So widely accepted has this view become that a contrary voice is welcome. Dr David Edgerton, Reader in the History of Technology at Imperial College, London, has provided a radically different version of history. *Science, Technology and the British Industrial 'Decline' 1870-1970* takes a closer look at Britain's history and comes up with some surprising conclusions.

The first error the "declinist" historians make, he argues, is to conflate relative decline with doing badly or

The idea that British industry has ignored science is under attack

Why neglect may be a myth

with failure. An economy that was once by far the largest in the world is certain to decline in relative terms as others begin to grow. In absolute terms, Britain's economy has declined only for brief periods, as for example 1929-32 or 1979-81. "Most, though not all, of the relative decline, as measured in the conventional way, is not due to British failings," he concludes. What about the charge that Britain has consistently underrated the importance of science and technology since the 1870s, made in Martin



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

Weiner's *English Culture and the Decline of the Industrial Spirit*? Dr Edgerton's figures suggest, by contrast, that "British higher education, the British State, and British industry were, if anything, peculiarly scientific and technological". He shows that

Britain produced more scientists and engineers per capita than any other major capitalist country during the 1950s and 1960s. British industry spent more of its own money on research and development than German and Japanese industry until the late 1950s.

As for the boardrooms, generally believed to have been bereft of engineers, he shows this to be another myth. He asserts, that by 1950 some 30 per cent of the senior men in British manufacturing had university-level scientific or technical education, while only 9.5 per cent were accountants. As for spending on research and development, Britain in fact spent more than competitors doing relatively better. In the 1960s Germany was wealthier, but did less R & D. France also overtook Britain, but doing even less R & D. The evidence is that Britain spent more on R & D than its wealth indicated.

If the commonly held ideas are false, why are they so

firmly fixed in so many people's minds? Dr Edgerton ventures the paradoxical explanation that these

"declinist" ideas are often put forward by scientists and engineers, and it is because of the high esteem in which such people are held that they are taken seriously.

In other words, the very hold that these ideas have disproves them.

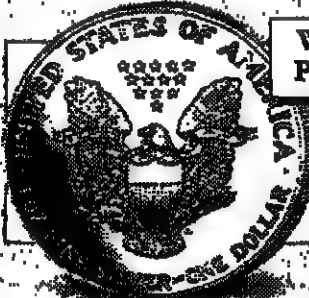
Science, Technology and the British Industrial 'Decline' 1870-1970, Cambridge University Press, £17.95.



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Robert Runcie — Day Two: Humphrey Carpenter reveals that the Archbishop knew about



"We thought it was an arranged marriage, but my own view was... she'll grow into it."



Dr Runcie told the Princess: "Don't worry about religious vocabulary... You may have more spiritual insight than your cerebrally inclined husband."

'I think Charles had already given up on the Church'

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CHANGING TIMES

My first conversation with Robert Runcie about the royal marriage was prompted by George Austin, Archdeacon of York, saying that Prince Charles should not succeed to the throne — or at least become head of the Church of England — if (as it was then beginning to seem) he had committed adultery with Camilla Parker Bowles.

Runcie: "In my view, it's a terrible reflection on the state of public life that someone like Austin — who was in the St Albans diocese when I was bishop — should become a household name in the current debate about the state of the monarchy. I was indiscreet about it at Jeffrey Archer's party last week. There was a man with whom I let off steam about the difficulties of the Prince of Wales and then I saw him go off and start talking to Charles Moore [of *The Daily Telegraph*]. He said: 'What do you think about it?' And I said: 'It depends whether the Prince wins his way with the British people over the next five to ten years. Also, it would quite help if he loved the Church of England a bit more.'

Carpenter: "You don't think he does?"

Runcie: "That's one of the things that I found disappointing — that he was so disenchanted with it. But he didn't have a consistent view, because he would go in with the *Spectator* gang on 'the lovely language of the Prayer Book', but then he would say, 'Instead of interfering with politics, the Church should be creating centres of healing in the inner cities — ought to be bringing together the spiritual, the intellectual and the architectural.' But these were only conversations in passing, not seriously sustained argument. He would, under pressure, respond to being asked to do something about my 'urban priority areas' — go and open a jobcentre. But I think he'd given up on the Church of England before I arrived."

Carpenter: "Why?"

Runcie: "I don't know, because he was cultivated by John Andrew [chaplain to Michael Ramsey], and was confirmed by Michael Ramsey, and had a sort of relationship there. My relationship with him was friendly, but I couldn't get much in depth out of it. When he came to Lambeth for his pre-marriage talk, I remember he said in a kind of nostalgic way 'I came and

served here sometimes'. But it was rather something that had passed away. And I think he was deeply into the Laurens van der Post spirituality. When it came to his concern to do something about the state of the country, I don't think he took the Church of England very seriously. One of the difficulties for me was that, when things began to go wrong in the marriage — when things were very unhappy for Diana — he invited me to lunch with her."

Carpenter: "With him as well?"

Runcie: "With him as well. On the basis of it's been rather a lot for Diana, because religion hasn't stuck much with her. And we feel we ought to mention it to you, because you married us. And the arrangement that he thought was good was that I should see her from time to time. She was happy about this. I had her private telephone number, and she had mine. And I then gave her what amounted to two or three not very successful confirmation talks. That's what he thought she needed: a bit of instruction."

What I quickly saw she needed was some encouragement and some 'Are you all right, girl?' When you began on abstract ideas, you could see her eyes clouding over, her eyelids became heavy. But it was a matter of encouraging her through talk about people, about personalities. And she was very receptive to that. For example, she would always write a very prompt and thoughtful thank-you letter — she had that sort of gift. But they were difficult times. About a year after this I was at some state banquet, and I said, 'How goes it?' And she said, 'Well, I'm still as thick as a plank up here, tapping her forehead, but I've really got it down here now, tapping her midriff.'

Carpenter: "Got more guts?"

Runcie: "Got more guts. And the big moment was when she went on her first tour with him. And I remember having one of my sessions with her when they were packing. I never saw him

THE ROYAL FAMILY

'For the Royal Family, survival is the priority'

again in relation to Diana — all my relationship with him was inner cities or official things; I could never get him on to Diana again."

Carpenter: "Did you try?"

Runcie: "Not really hard. Diana felt she had a separate relationship with me, because I took her brother Charlie's wedding, and baptised his children as well as hers. And I became, and remain a friend of Frances Shand-Kydd, her mother, who is really rather an underestimated person. So I'm in a way, I suppose, associated with that camp. Then her grandmother I knew very well, Ruth Feroz, and Ruth used to see me, and I felt — typical Runcie — on both sides, because Ruth was very distressed with Diana's behaviour. Ruth was a gentle and lovely person, a great encourager of music, and she was totally and wholly a Charles person, because she'd seen him grow up, loved him like all the women of the court do, and regarded Diana as an actress, a schemer — all of which is true, of course."

Carpenter: "Is it?"

Runcie: "Well, it can be. Very competitive. I don't know what will become of her. Sad, really, and I feel a desire to support her."

Carpenter: "When the stuff about the marriage began to come in the press, did it seem familiar to you? Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles?"

Runcie: "Yes."

Carpenter: "You knew about that already?"

Runcie: "I knew about that already, yes. That was what worried Ruth Feroz, about his needing a woman to love and be cared for by. And also that Diana would never be under control until she fell in love with someone."

Carpenter: "Were you nervous about the marriage from the start?"

Runcie: "I remember Richard Chartres (now Bishop of London) — a very observant man — when they came to see me for the first time, and there was general conversation, with Richard present, about the arrangements and things. Richard said to me, 'He's seriously depressed. You can tell from his voice.' We thought it was an arranged marriage, but my own view was 'They're a nice couple, and she'll grow into it.' They weren't casual about their preparation for marriage: I remember we had a private Communion service together, and Charles encouraged her a lot when she looked a little anxious and wan about it."

"But she was very tender, very unformed. And yet had a sort of shrewdness, and was tremendously observant, always very observant of anything about you. I used to go and see her at Kensington Palace and she'd see me to the

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Camilla and tried to support Diana; plus the tense relationship with Margaret Thatcher



At moments of high drama "the Queen always went out of her way to encourage"

door, and I opened the door of the car and a packet of cigarettes fell out, and she said, 'Oh, you have a bag between sessions, do you? And she came to Canterbury once, and she wrote to somebody and said she'd been to lunch with me and 'guess what, we had grilled sole!'

"Charles is highly sensitive — that's what everybody says. I could quote so many examples of personal letters, or hidden acts of kindness to individuals in need, or unglamorous but worthwhile causes. But he is a mass of contradictions. He's punctilious in being Colonel-in-Chief of the Welsh Guards, but he also wants to be friends with the Greenham women. He's on about the grandeur of our cathedrals and the epic language of the Prayer Book, but he wants to be exploring Hinduism with people in inner cities."

"He hunts regularly, but is a great man about the environment. So that the public don't really know where he is. There are people who have all sorts of conspiracy theories. The most amazing was that Diana would become a Roman Catholic and lead the return of the Stuart royal house!"

"The person I do admire is the Queen. She's the only person who has the ability to rise above it. I don't fully understand her, but that's part of her secret. At moments of either high drama or pressure on me, like the papal visit or the coal miners' strike, she always went out of her way to encourage — it may have been indirectly, by an invitation to do something; it may have been by a chance word. But I've always felt that she regarded it as part of her responsibility, though he was never to be regarded as a member of the court or a private chaplain, to encourage the Archbishop of Canterbury, and to listen to what he had to say — to ask him his opinion about things. Now, I never managed to strike that sort of relationship with

the Prince of Wales. "It's a strange family, the Royal Family, because conversations aren't followed up. I think it's also that survival is the overarching priority, and you have to prove yourself as a safe person with whom to be a friend, not a man who boasts about his position with them."

Carpenter: "But the Queen has to have some responsibility for their appalling public image?"

Runcie: "When I said I admired her, I meant that she managed to combine the mystique and informality which sprang from her own deep sense of vocation. This meant you knew where you were, even though you were often uncomfortable, because her shyness makes it hard to relax in her presence. She creates a feeling of uncertainty. I remember the first time I met Diana was when I sat between the Queen and her at the Privy Council meeting summoned to confirm the engagement. Diana was terrified of her. She'd obviously

been told it was very important that she made it, so to speak, and she was anxious to make sure that if I ought to have been talking to the Queen, I wasn't talking to her. They're people of formal personal piety, of course, people who intercede, who say their nightly prayers. Diana said she found that this was something that Charles couldn't share. She used to say to me, 'He's very deep. Charles' — this is the little girl talking in the early days — and Charles had said 'I like intercession a great deal, and I felt sympathy with her. She was the one who was most uninhibited about calling you by your Christian name, and embracing you and all that sort of thing. And she said 'I just can't take the stiff upper lip syndrome. And the you-are-never-ill syndrome. And that's what's got Diana.'"

Edited extracts from Robert Runcie: *The Reluctant Archbishop* by Humphrey Carpenter, published next month by Hodder and Stoughton, £20. ©1996 Humphrey Carpenter



The Duchess was "uninhibited about using your Christian name, and embracing you"

ROBERT RUNCIE

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Robert Runcie had his first contact with a "frumpish Margaret Roberts" — the future Margaret Thatcher — at Oxford. Writing soon after arriving for his first term, he reported: "I take a mild interest in the doings of the Conservatives, and to show my broadmindedness have joined the Socialists so that their card should help to fill up my mantelpiece." He was attracted by the stylishness of the Carlton Club, a Conservative club in Oxford of which he was a founder member when it opened in 1946. He took Conservatism seriously enough to be college secretary for, and on the committee of, the University Conservative Association. Margaret Roberts had just retired as president.

"I didn't take to her! I was in her company a lot — and I've always made sport of the fact that I had a minor job on the committee, and she dropped me because of my rather frivolous attachment to politics. But it's true, because I represented the Carlton Club, against which she was rebelling. If she'd known that I came from the same background [as her], I think she would have been surprised, because she obviously associated me with those lordly characters who were getting Conservatism as a serious philosophy a bad name. She was a hard-working chemist. I always regarded her as rather lubby, with rosy cheeks. Not my sort of girl! I'm full of admiration for her, but it's like sitting next to electricity."

Then, or now, or both? "Oh, both!" Thatcher did not actually choose Runcie as Archbishop. The procedure was more complex with the newly created Crown Appointments Commission submitting a shortlist of two for the Prime Minister to make the final decision... One of the leading candidates was Hugh Montefiore, who had recently become Bishop of Birmingham. But Montefiore had recently got into trouble by remarking that Jesus might not have been "the marrying sort" — ie, homosexual — which gave an edge to Runcie.

I asked Runcie whether, when he arrived at Lambeth, there had been a dinner invitation to 10 Downing Street — were social doors opened, so that he and Thatcher could communicate informally? "To a certain extent. Actually she wasn't very good at inviting me round. But she used to say, when I took on an anti-Government stance, 'Why does he sound off like this? He knows that he can come round and warn me that he feels like this.' That was her defence. People like Geoffrey Howe used to invite me round. But none of them ever said to me 'You're terribly wrong.' Willie Whitelaw and my other friends would say: 'You've got to remember it's all very difficult. They would go out of their way to be friendly to me.'"

I asked Lord Whitelaw if he

'I admire her, but it's like sitting next to electricity'

MARGARET THATCHER



"We ex's must stick together," Mrs Thatcher said at his farewell

thought Thatcher had had any doubts about appointing Runcie.

"I should have thought she must have had. They were not compatible figures in any way at all. One has to remember that she has little sense of humour, and therefore if you have a sense of humour, you are always slightly suspect with her. Of course, if you're the Archbishop and have a sense of humour, that's even more the case. If she saw Bob and me standing together and laughing — which we frequently did — I think she thought, 'This mafia, what are they up to?'

I remarked that Runcie is more conservative than he was popularly supposed to be. "Well, he might be now," replied Whitelaw, "but he wasn't when Margaret was in power. She thought he was a liberal. She had this great thing of 'if you're not for me, you're against me'. They got on perfectly well when they met, but

then she had scrupulously good manners, and was always polite, even though she might be cursing away in the background about some of the things he'd produced."

When I spoke to Lady Thatcher she was resolutely circumspect.

Thatcher: "I don't want to be anything other than very nice about him. He's a very nice man. We always had very good relations. I don't remember him at Oxford."

Carpenter: "You don't remember him there at all?"

Thatcher: "No, but certainly from the conversations which I've had with him, he's a very, very good mind and an extremely — well, as you'd expect from an Archbishop of Canterbury — a very nice man. A very modest man."

Carpenter: "I noticed you didn't mention him in your memoirs."

Thatcher: "No, well, there were no great Church things during my time."

Carpenter: "Did you not feel any sense of the Church being in opposition to you, when the press were making out that this was the case?"

Thatcher: "The press sometimes will make out that that's the case. Then at other times they'll say that the Church of England is the Conservative Party at prayer."

Carpenter: "Could I ask you about the Falklands service of thanksgiving, in July 1982? You'll remember that Lord Runcie's sermon referred to the losses of the Argentinians as well as the British, and he called war 'deplorable'. I think you congratulated him afterwards — he says, 'She didn't seem anything other than congratulatory to me' — but it is also said that you did feel angry about the sermon. Did you feel that the emphasis was wrong, in the service and the sermon?"

Thatcher: "I felt that we didn't give, perhaps, sufficient recognition to all of those without whose sacrifice... the Falklands would not be free. And I must say that I do think it is right to make it clear that an aggressor shall never be appeased. Never!"

As Prime Minister, Thatcher was more forthright in her criticisms. After the Falklands service her husband, chatting and drinking with MPs on the House of Commons terrace, was said to have told them: "The boss was angry enough this morning. Now she is spinning blood."

Several Tory MPs wrote to Runcie to complain that the service was inappropriate, and the following Sunday, August 1, 1982, the Rev Dr Edward Norman, Dean of Peterhouse, Cambridge, and a well known right-wing commentator on public affairs, contributed an article to *The Sunday Telegraph* in which he alleged that Runcie's sermon had been a "calculated balancing act" designed to appease those liberals in the Church of England whose "hatred of Thatcherite Conservatism" blinded them to the necessity of the Falklands War.

One of the last Runcie-Thatcher encounters was at his farewell party [Thatcher's first appearance at Downing Street since her deposition]. I asked him how she had behaved. "The stuffing seemed to have gone out of her a bit," Runcie answered. "She said to me: 'We ex's must stick together. One almost feels sorry for her. But one has so many feelings about her.'"

He recalled meeting Thatcher at a Lambeth reception: "I said: 'Prime Minister, this is Mother Frances, who has just opened the first hospice for children.' And you'd think Mrs T would have wanted to ask her something about it. But no, she looked Frances Domitina in the eye and said firmly: 'Now, the thing about hospices is... as if she knew more about them than anyone in the world.'"

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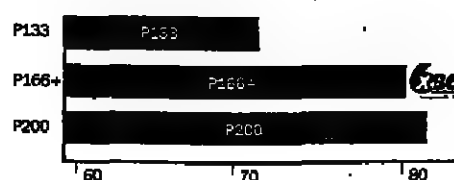
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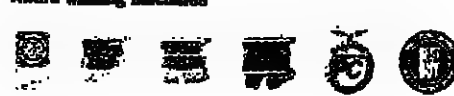
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TOMORROW

Life with 'Lindy'

Mrs Runcie is tough-minded and not afraid to express herself, even if it means

Matthew Parris



■ What shall I do now? What shall I ever do? Perhaps after all it's better late than early

Why was that hour in York on Thursday so unnerving? I was there to speak after a dinner. I'd known about it for ages but not really concentrated on details of time and place. Only on arrival at York station did I sit quietly on a bench with the correspondence — and realise I could have taken a later train. It was half past six. The dinner, at a nearby hotel, began at 7.30.

This was unsettling. I am always late. It seems 20 years since I have had an hour to kill. My habit is to fill a day with undertakings, then squeeze in some extra ones too.

So what to do now? I know nobody in York but a friend who was not expecting me. Probably the Minister would be closed, and anyway the word "herbage" has a baleful sound. Preferring the word "work", I opened my laptop computer and started the introduction to a book.

Fifteen minutes passed in a trice. A few paragraphs written — then a warning flashed: battery spent. I packed up. Forty-five minutes left. Nothing to do.

Time slowed and everything wound down. I could feel my heartbeat slacken. Have you ever listened to a dance record when the power cuts? It nosedives. The twang and jangle, the insistent beat, come crashing down as gallop slows to canter, to trot, to walk, to plod, to stop. Speed and rhythm bear the melody aloft: kill the pace and the music crashes.

Leaving my bag at the hotel, I went for a walk. It was a beautiful September evening. From the riverbank I could see pleasure-craft docking for the night. Swallows were gathering on the wires with enormous clamour. For a few minutes I watched a family of ducks foraging in the shallows, then, noticing a youth and his girlfriend necking rather close to me, I felt embarrassed and moved ten yards along the river walk.

A church clock struck seven. Only 12 minutes had passed since leaving the station. I thought to amble over the bridge, but so used am I to walking fast or even running that it was an effort to ramble. Forcing myself to slow to the pace of others I passed a couple of youths with very short haircuts and shirts untucked. Was this a trend? I stared observing others: yes, almost all the younger men had crewcuts, shirt-tails out. When did the fashion start? I seem to have missed it. It was 7.03.

Over the bridge a homeless youth with bad skin was squatting in a doorway, begging. My pace was too slow to avoid the decision: should one give to these people? I debated with myself then said "sorry" and walked on. He rolled a cigarette. I thought: "Hal! So he's not too poor to buy tobacco," and considered my decision vindicated. It was four minutes past seven. I phoned a friend to use up some of the 37 units left on my phone card. 23.22.21. They clocked down so slowly.

There were some shoes in a sale in a window. £45! Gosh, I thought shoes were about £15. I looked into an open church. All Saints Pavement, a bit pallid. By a paved precinct a brown-skinned man was singing *Amazing Grace* unaccompanied in a fine bass voice. Pondering a while, I put 20p in his hat on account of his talent, then thought how mean it had been to give nothing to the first youth, who had no talent and bad skin; and how mean and stupid to disparage him for smoking when a spindly cigarette was his only pleasure. So I returned, but found in my pocket only 7p change. He said, without sarcasm, "Thanks a lot, ta". I spent some minutes re-proaching myself and contemplated giving him a five pound note as a penance, while pretending to look at All Saints Pavement again, but decided this would be melodramatic. It was ten past seven.

And to think I could have taken the later train

I read the special offers in a travel agent's window — a trip to Skiathos: where is Skiathos? — until 7.15. In five minutes you can read a whole display many times. Returning to the precinct I found the brown-skinned man still singing (*Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer*), and walked on, past some public phones. A young man was talking, rather tenderly, probably to a girlfriend: "Why not? It's only two hours by train..." Not wishing to pry, I moved on. But where? Not back to the singing man: I had passed him twice already and risked becoming conspicuous. I saw some more shoes in another window, but I'm not interested in shoes. I returned past the telephones. The young man was still talking, and glanced at me. I hoped he did not think I was prying. It was 7.20.

And I know this sounds silly but I was gripped by a sort of panic. What to do? The massed twitter of the gathering swallows acquired a note of menace. My short visit to Earth had been scary: as though, perching momentarily, I found the tentacles of commonplaces wrapping themselves round my ankles. I longed to take wing again. "You'd better not look down, or you might not keep on flying," sings B.B. King, and so it was proving. Like a flat stone over water, it is by motion that we keep airborne: by speed that we skim. Stop and the waves close over. Spinning, the spinning top spins upright. Slow your spin and the top wobbles. I gave up the attempt to stroll, and scurried back over the bridge to the shelter of the hotel lobby. It was 7.22. How frightening to have time on your hands.

The Conservative election campaign has started badly, and the polls show Labour heading for triumph

Demon eyes are not scaring anyone

eral voters seem to be switching to Labour.

The prevailing national mood is that "it's time for a change", a view supported by no less than 79 per cent in the latest Gallup poll, and that Labour "couldn't do worse than the present lot", supported by 72 per cent. Many Conservative voters are already quite reconciled to a Labour victory, and even those who strongly hope that Labour will not win are not in any panic at the prospect.

Yet the Gallup poll is worrying to most Tories, not because of any fear that Tony Blair is about to emerge as a second Robespierre, but because the poll is holding steady at a very large Labour victory. The picture given by other polls is somewhat different but not entirely. They also show a big Labour lead, but it is not quite so big.

Five years ago, Britain was eight months away from the general election which was held on April 9, 1992. The Gallup poll taken in September 1991 proved a surprisingly accurate forecast of the election result eight months later. The Conservative vote was put at 39.5, by April it had actually risen to 42.8. The Labour vote was put at 35; in the election, Labour polled 35.2. The Liberal Democrats were put at 16.5, and they actually polled 18.3. The last eight months before the 1992 election may have seen a modest improvement for the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, but Gallup already had the

actual Labour vote correctly. Will that be repeated, or will there be a large Conservative recovery in the run-up to this election, on a scale quite different from what happened last time?

The latest Gallup poll gives the Conservatives 25.5, Labour 58.5 and the Liberal Democrats 11, a Labour lead of 33 against Gallup's Conservative lead of 4.5 at the same point before the 1992 election. Other polls are showing a smaller Labour lead, but even they cluster around a

in the mood of the public, so far as one can assess that.

If a surprise Tory victory does lie at one end of the scale of possibility, a Gallup-type result must exist at the other end. In 1991, Gallup understated the eventual Conservative margin of victory by 3 per cent, eight months ahead of the election. Public opinion then proved remarkably stable. Suppose that the same is true again now. That would mean a Labour victory with a margin of about 30 per cent. It is difficult to calculate what that would mean in terms of seats, but the Conservatives would be left with fewer than 100, and the overall Labour majority would probably be around the 350 mark, the greatest election victory of the century except for 1931, and conceivably as big a victory as 1931 itself.

That is extremely unlikely. But if one steps down the Labour margin to the level of the adjusted polls, the Labour majority could still be huge. Suppose that these adjusted polls are correct, but that opinion does not change much between now and next May. That would produce a Labour lead of 20 per cent, with an election result of approximately 50 per cent Labour, 30 per cent Conservative. The Conservatives would still win only about 150 seats, Labour would win about 450, and the overall majority would still be 300. That would be the worst Conservative result since 1906.

That too is unlikely. Yet if one

supposes that the Conservatives make a really strong recovery, both in terms of the adjusted Gallup figures and in terms of the other opinion polls, Labour would still win the election with 45 per cent of the vote, only a couple of points more than the Conservatives had last time, and the Conservatives would have 35 per cent, exactly Labour's share last time. Again it is difficult to convert both into seats. Such a result might produce a Parliament like that of 1966, when the Conservatives held about 250 seats: it might even produce a Parliament like that of 1945, when the Conservatives won only about 200 seats. Labour's overall majority could be anything from 50 to 150 seats. Yet given what the opinion polls are showing now, such a Labour victory would follow even a big Tory recovery.

We are all rightly suspicious of the predictive value of opinion polls, because they have been wrong too often. Yet the assumption that the polls are more likely than not to be wrong is itself not justified by experience. They have a much better rate of prediction than by-elections, let alone mere hunch or guesswork. What they are saying, more or less unanimously, is that there is now a significant chance of an overwhelming Labour victory.

That is the depth of the hole out of which the Tories must try to climb. It is also a measure of the failure of the Tories' scare campaign. The latest Gallup poll, which shows a 33 per cent lead, is only one point better for the Tories than the previous month's, when the demon eyes campaign was not yet under way. The lesson for John Major is unequivocal. He is now fighting to prevent Labour winning by a landslide. To succeed he must give people reasons to vote for the Tories, not just reasons not to vote Labour. Demon eyes are not frightening anyone.

William Rees-Mogg

Labour lead of 20, sometimes after an adjustment which brings the Labour lead down to 18.5.

Most people still believe that the familiar voting patterns of the past were period are going to reassert themselves, that the general election will be quite close, and that the Conservatives might even win. The spread of possibility is indeed still very wide, and public opinion may prove to be volatile, but as yet there is little or no sign that the necessary large Tory recovery is taking place. It does not show in the opinion polls or

Hush-hush when it matters

Peter Riddell
on the issues
that are too hot
to handle before
an election

What politicians say during elections is often less revealing than what they try to avoid talking about. Riddell's first law of elections is that the dominant issue of a Parliament is almost always something that was not properly discussed during the preceding campaign.

That is why the initial barrages of the 1996-97 campaign have been so depressing. It is not just their crassness and predictability (though the Tories may prove effective in scaring some defectors back into the fold). Worse has been the way the parties are dodging the key issues facing any government in the next Parliament: the state of the public finances, the structure of public services, welfare reform, relations between Whitehall and local councils, and the single currency. The implications are too politically awkward.

This pattern has been true of several previous elections. In 1987, for example, there was hardly any mention of the poll tax outside Scotland, even though it featured in the Tory manifesto. As David Butler, Andrew Adonis and Tony Travers point out in their book on the poll tax debacle, *Failure in British Government*, Labour was so worried about drawing attention to "loony-left" local councils, that its leaders decided against sending out material damning the poll tax. And when Jack Cunningham did mention it, there was little media interest. But the poll tax went on to dominate the 1987-92 Parliament.

In 1992, Europe was the dog that did not bark. The Maastricht treaty was mentioned in the Tory manifesto, but it was not highlighted in the campaign. According to the Nuffield



study of the election, Europe was not in the top 12 issues in television news coverage. Of course, as the sceptics argue, the two front benches agreed on both Maastricht and Britain's involvement in the exchange-rate mechanism, and did not want to draw attention to dissent within their parties. There is something in this, though at the time everyone expected Maastricht to be ratified by the end of the summer.

The classic example of this law at present is the silence over the public finances. The crossfire over Labour's ill-defined goal of a lower starting-rate of tax and the Tories' list of alleged Labour taxes (some of which are fanciful or not really taxes at all) has generally missed the mark. As the past four years have shown, what matters is public spending and borrowing. The Tories have taken tough measures, but because of a

shortfall in tax receipts, they have not finished the job. The core budget deficit has not been eliminated, and existing plans are unrealistic about future levels of spending on key services such as health and on public-sector pay — and they rely on big cuts in investment. So whoever is Chancellor in the next Parliament will have to raise taxes and squeeze some programmes to finance expansion elsewhere and to reduce borrowing. The small tax cuts likely in November are a trivial and damaging diversion. Similarly, interest rates would almost certainly be increased this autumn but for the approach of the election.

The Tories want to distract attention from this, while Labour is torn. Gordon Brown wants to shift the debate away from negative exchanges towards the state of public finances. But it is not enough to point to his toughness on new spending commitments, or to demand an inquiry into the real position. Mr Brown, as well as obviously Mr Clarke, should say what he plans to do. The debate should focus on what level of public spending we need, the scope for shifting financing to the private sector (as both parties intend to higher education) and whether the VAT base needs to be extended. Part of the problem lies with the media, which often act as propagandists and prevent rational discussion of difficult options. Only the Liberal Democrats are frank, and they may be over-optimistic about the size of the niche market for candour.

The same constraints apply to welfare reform. The main parties accept that current policies are costly

and are not weaning enough people off welfare. Any real reform is bound to move further towards workfare (working or full-time training in return for benefits) and compulsory insurance for long-term risks such as sickness, unemployment and care in old age. To the anger of many in his party, Mr Brown has started to move down this road with his proposal that the young unemployed should not be allowed to remain permanently on full benefit and for reallocating child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds. But Labour's credibility is undermined by its reluctance to be frank about the implications, and by its unqualified and glib attacks on the Government's social security measures. Tony Blair and Mr Brown say they want welfare reform to be a centrepiece of a Labour government, but at present there is more aspiration than substance.

The leaders in both parties are even more keen to avoid talking about the single currency. They pretend that the decision is some time off in the unknowable future, for fear that anything more definite will reveal internal party divisions. Britain may have until spring 1998 finally to decide whether to join, even if monetary union goes ahead in January 1999. So it is reasonable for those not opposed in principle to wait until nearer the time to judge whether the structure and economic conditions are right. But the preliminary steps of legislating to make the Bank of England independent and the like will have to be under way within 12 months. So by a spring 1997 election, specific decisions will be imminent.

If President Chirac has shown that France is moving towards the Maastricht guidelines, monetary union will look like a probability. So it will be unconvincing for the Tories to claim that they have not ruled out entry in the next Parliament — when everyone knows it would split the party in two — or for Labour to pretend that it does not incline one way or the other. Monetary union is too important to be buried in pre-election evasions.

The parties should not be allowed to get away with a campaign based on scare tactics, gimmicky promises and phony allegations.

Ringing rebuke

MICHAEL HOWARD, the Home Secretary, is having trouble with his junior ministers. At the end of last week, Tom Sackville uttered the heresy that unemployment may be linked to crime. Now his other key junior minister, Timothy Kirkhope, has been breaking the rules of aircraft safety.

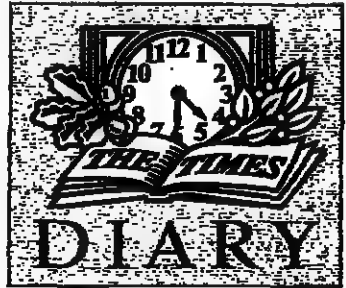
Taking a break from his duties as duty Home Office minister while his colleagues enjoyed their foreign holidays, Kirkhope, who holds a pilot's licence, was at the controls of a single-engine Piper Warrior 4,000ft above the Pennines when his bleeper sounded. The message urged him to call the Whitehall mandarins who needed a decision on some gripping matter.

Handing the controls over to his co-pilot, Kirkhope pulled out his mobile phone and rang the Home Office. But, as any seasoned traveller knows, mobile phones are capable of interfering with sensitive aircraft instruments, and may not be turned on during scheduled and charter flights.

"I wouldn't use a phone like that in a commercial aircraft," warns Kirkhope. "I switched off one or



In Russia: still Lebed



he affects a dainty cigarette-holder of the Princess Margaret variety. Can we expect a revival of this exciting accessory?

Defector

EVEN before the university term has started, the president of the Cambridge Hawks, the exclusive club to which only Blues can be elected, has been obliged to resign. Adrian Spencer, a rugby union Blue, is defecting to rugby league and has signed a contract to play for the London Broncos.

His first and last job will be to organise the re-election of his successor. The steward of the club — which counts Mike Atherton and Rob Andrew as members — is generous about the matter: "We never

gave him a dinner to celebrate his election so we will give him a leaving dinner instead."

Go for broke

LORD WILLOUGHBY de Broke, who is both a friend of the Prince of Wales and an occasional tennis partner of the Princess, is embarking on an awfully big adventure.

A founder member of the Vanderbilt tennis club (very top notch), he has taken up a rather more arduous sport. He has packed his solar topes and is off on a horse-riding expedition across the desert in Namibia. He has been in training for several weeks. The trek will take two to three weeks, so I have been practising on an elderly horse here on the farm," he explains.

"Six or eight hours riding a day will be damn painful," he says blithely, but he shows a touching solicitude for the horses. "I am a little concerned about how they will cope with the sand. Perhaps they ought to wear pilmoolls."

Beach party

DESPITE the sartorial rules, Jerold James Gordon, who trained

as a singer, recently conducted an opera in his beachwear.

"I have been singing in the Spandau Summer Opera Festival in Berlin," he explains. "One night our conductor was held up in traffic. I was asked to stand in and I conducted the whole of Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* in my stage costume, which was a 1930s version of a T-shirt, bathing trunks and flip-flops. I also had to leap on the stage to sing my bit, an intermezzo performed between acts."

He was rewarded for his efforts



A growing problem: national minimum wage rage

with two bouquets — one for singing, one for conducting.

At the flicks

BRITISH SPORTSMEN are flexing their thumbs for the next big event, the International Festival of Marbles to be held this week near Nashville, Tennessee. After the disappointments of Atlanta, the British team aims to restore national sporting pride when it takes on French and regional American teams in the Olympics of the marble players' calendar.

Team leader Barry Ray (grandson of Jim "Atomic Thumb" Longhurst), his son Darren (the reigning world champion) and daughter Allison (ladies champion) will be donning British T-shirts. A Union Jack has been packed, together with the national anthem, because organisers in the home town of American country music found they had no copy with the rarely sung second and third verses.

No skimping from the Rays if they win.

It aly

AS UMBERTO BOSSI and the breakaway Northern League in



Loren: queening it?

Italy wait to declare independence this week for the self-styled republic of the north, or Padania as they call it. Sophia Loren, the evergreen filmstar, has declared her own plans for Naples in the south.

She has said that she wants her birthplace to become the Kingdom of Naples, as it once was. "Sophia wants to be Queen of Naples," says a fellow countryman, "I think she likes the idea of wearing a crown."

P.H.S

هذا من الاصل



COOK AND BULL

Back-door socialism is back on the agenda

The panjandrums of the EU have abandoned any intention to calm Britain's debate about Europe. Scheduling a special EU summit on October 5, two days before the Tory party conference opens in Bournemouth, should ensure that John Major reaffirms his opposition to many of the proposed revisions of the Maastricht Treaty. The summiters are supposed to clear such British blockages; but its chosen date means that no such breakthrough can occur.

At the Dublin summits of October and December, EU leaders seem instead set to make clear that they are no longer interested in Mr Major; they intend to leave some of the biggest decisions in the hope that Tony Blair reaches Downing Street. What are the ideas for which Mr Blair's continental counterparts are waiting so eagerly? Last week the Shadow Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, outlined a few of them in an interview in the *New Statesman*. As a cocktail of the politically naive, the economically foolish and the electorally useful to Mr Major, they would be hard to match.

Mr Cook cannot be faulted for thinking small: he wants to rewrite the EU's whole agenda. The problem for Europe's socialists, he thinks, is that they are governing in only the smaller states. The balance of power would be transformed once a British Labour government had put itself at the head of the left-wing alliance. Before you could say "Jacques Santer", unemployment would be at the top of every summiters' blotter.

If Mr Cook thinks it is that easy, he has a nasty shock in store. Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac have endured more than a decade of economic pain, ruined the lives of millions of young people made jobless by overvalued currencies and ruthlessly suppressed opposition to the single currency. For what? To surrender the prize of monetary union to an alliance of Britain, Scandinavian social democrats and dithering Italians. We think not.

Mr Cook professes himself mystified by the EU's lack of interest in Jacques Delors' plans to cut unemployment. The explanation is simple: the public spending involved was considered by Herr Kohl to be incompatible with cutting deficits and merging their currencies. With the exception of its ideas on deregulation, the plan faded into obscurity.

If Mr Cook means that he wishes to rewrite the stiff economic tests written into the Maastricht treaty, he should say so. Those are the requirements which help to ensure that European unemployment stays at an average 11 per cent and double that figure in the unluckiest states. If Mr Cook would care to abandon his opaque reluctance over the single currency and rule out British participation, he would follow his own logic to its conclusion and win votes here. But he might have trouble finding allies on the Continent.

Suppose, however, that Mr Cook did find those allies and that the EU adopted a socialist agenda. At this point in his interview, he revealed himself to be more sympathetic to EU social legislation than some of New Labour's recent wriggles and wiggles on this subject have revealed. The EU's social chapter is important because it is one of the "first attempts by an international community to reach minimum standards on social provision". So much for Mr Blair's assurances that if Labour takes Britain into the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty, no harm will come to the businesses which dread the job-destroying small print of social directives written in Brussels.

Mr Cook revealed himself as quite at ease with the idea that the EU can be put to good use in pushing and pulling Britain on to the socialist path. In the Shadow Foreign Secretary's eyes, the redistribution of power towards Brussels is fine as long as the power is used along good socialist lines. In bygone days this used to be known as socialism by the back door.

BATTLE FOR AMERICA

Clinton and Dole hold the front lines — but not the only lines

President Clinton enters the final phase of his re-election campaign this week as the clear favourite. His popularity remains in many ways mysterious. Why do Americans not see the cynicism and evasions that have characterised his term in office? Do they expect no better from politicians these days? Are they simply enjoying their prosperity and asking no questions? Or is Bill Clinton simply better than his stiff and bad-tempered opponent, Bob Dole?

In 57 days' time the outcome — if not the analysis — will be settled. As we outline on page 11 today, the battle lines in the Electoral College have been drawn and the critical states identified. Mr Clinton, like John Major, is at his happiest when pounding the disputed territory between the parties. Although both men are also at their best with their backs against the wall, that is a talent which Mr Clinton does not yet need.

The struggle for the Oval Office inevitably attracts a greater international attention than that for the other elections in November. Presidential prestige always adds to the impression of an all-conquering political colossus. In foreign policy a combination of constitutional prerogatives and a superpower's need for speed make the presidency a place of real authority. On domestic questions, however, the US Congress is usually king. Elections to the House of Representatives and Senate always deserve the attention of America's allies: this year they deserve more attention than usual.

Both Mr Clinton and Mr Dole are familiar. Both are professional politicians *par excellence*. Both seem happiest at the centre of their parties. Neither has built a career on ideological purity or regularly raised the standard of bright colours. Compromise is their shared hallmark. Their similarities, however, obscure big issues.

There are three plausible scenarios for

after November. The first is that Mr Clinton is re-elected and the Democrats are restored to their former dominion in Congress. Because the party is no closer to a single purpose now than it was four years ago, it is unlikely that a cohesive agenda would emerge from such a victory. But memories of the early Clinton years, when Democrats ruled at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, are not happy. A new Democrat-ruled Congress has not won the explicit endorsement of even the President himself.

In the second scenario Mr Clinton would be returned alongside a party, or exclusively, Republican legislature. Politics would then continue much as they have done in the past 18 months. Conservatives would use their greater internal agreement and higher discipline to determine the direction of public policy. They would reduce the size and scope of the federal government and devolve power to the states. Mr Clinton could not prevent that direction but would slow the pace of change.

The final possibility places Mr Dole with a Republican Congress. Largely at the instigation of the latter, this could lead to a fundamental alteration in principle and priorities. Taxation would be dramatically reduced and federal expenditure curtailed on a sweeping scale. More power would return to the states. Most of what has been prevailing orthodoxy over the past six decades would be treated as either mistaken or overtaken by events.

If the last outcome occurs, the much-debated questions of what tasks should governments attempt, what level of government is best suited to undertake them and by what means and mechanism should they be executed, could be given new and dramatic answers. Neither Mr Clinton nor Mr Dole is a great philosopher. But the consequences of this November's contests could be profound.

RULES OF ASYLUM

Britain should clamp down on refugees advocating terrorism

The organisers of the aborted Islamic rally yesterday blamed foreign governments, Jews, homosexuals and the media for the cancellation of the London meeting where messages of support were to have been broadcast from fugitive and imprisoned terrorists. The self-styled Muslim Parliament of Great Britain called the cancellation a "sinister" example of British Government hypocrisy and xenophobia. Both statements epitomise the militancy and perversity logic that had made the rally such a threat to moderate Muslims in Britain.

The rally was cancelled because speakers had intended to voice the kind of bigotry likely to stir up violent protests from other groups spilling for a fight. It was the message of intolerance itself that led to the message of intolerance. Not any concerted plot against Islam. Some of those most worried by the rally were Muslims who knew that calls for a jihad against the "imperialist" West and its Middle East allies would, inevitably, capture the headlines and strengthen the association of Islam with violence. To allow groups such as the Muslim Parliament to speak for Britain's 1.5 million Muslims is to allow those who stir up violence to pose as the

demands from the Middle East to cancel the rally, risked friction with Arab governments by insisting, correctly, that it had no power to do so. What it demanded, however, was that the speakers respect British law. This outlaws incitement to violence and racial hatred; but it says nothing about incitement to terrorism and violence overseas. As the aborted rally showed, Britain's lax laws have now made it a haven for extremists who use religion as a cloak.

After John Major's commitment to his G7 allies, that may soon change. Britain is to take a lead in changing the United Nations convention in order to deny asylum to those who advocate or fund terrorism. More immediately, Michael Howard is to broaden the present law of conspiracy to include those who plot terrorism overseas. The aim is not to close the doors to genuine political refugees, but to ensure that terrorists in exile do not use Britain as a base for undesirable subversion. In accepting political refugees most other countries curb their political activities, offering a basic human right, physical safety, not a new campaign headquarters. Britain is right to be working along similar lines — on behalf of its friends abroad, its allies and to its Muslim citizens

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Advisory group proposals on future of Naval College

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin

Sir, Ministers have not "given approval" for a Greenwich University campus on the site of the Royal Naval College (report, September 3; see also article, September 4 and letters, September 6).

They have decided to accept a recommendation from the Greenwich Advisory Group for the establishment of a trust to take responsibility for the preservation and future use of these historic buildings.

The proposal for a trust was first put forward to ministers by various responsible interests in October last year. It hardly needed an advisory group to spend eight months to confirm that this was the best way forward.

Despite the wish of the Secretaries of State for Defence and National Heritage (letter, September 14, 1995) to consider "the widest possible range of proposals in securing an appropriate and sympathetic use of this magnificent collection of buildings... of outstanding cultural and heritage importance to the nation", it appears that the advisory group have considered only the proposal from Greenwich University.

Dame Jennifer Jenkins, chairman of the advisory group (letter, September 6), states that the university "was the only organisation to submit detailed plans supported by adequate funding". She omits to add that in the group's judgment, in its report, "the university will be near the limits of its resources when these aspirations are added to those elsewhere".

Neither does Dame Jennifer mention the considerable uncertainties which will affect financial planning. These include a sum of £25 million or more which the group have identified

will be needed to put the buildings in good repair and to adapt them for future use.

The ministerial press release of September 2 includes the report's conclusion that "there is scope both to allow the university to establish a major campus... with the National Maritime Museum in closer academic partnership...". It goes on: "The precise terms of the arrangements and scope for other imaginative and appropriate uses of the buildings will be a matter for the trust to decide".

Quite so. The sooner trustees are appointed and urged to use more imagination than has been demonstrated so far, the better. Enough time has been wasted.

Yours sincerely,
LEWIN,
House of Lords,
September 6.

From the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Greenwich

Sir, The report by the Greenwich Advisory Group alluded to by your Whitehall Editor (report, September 3) questioned "whether [the university] could pay for the future upkeep of the buildings".

The group's report in fact confirms, in paragraph 29, that:

"The University of Greenwich's approach to date appears to us to be responsible. We believe that its plans to finance its interest in the Royal Naval College are achievable."

The financial plan, submitted last November, had to comply with the conditions under which the Royal Naval College was being offered — i.e. that all existing liabilities had to be taken over by a tenant.

However, the advisory group's final proposals, now accepted, make it clear that the burden is partly to be

borne by a trust. It follows that the financial burden on the university will be less than expected and that it will have no difficulty in meeting its obligations, as Dame Jennifer Jenkins's letter today accepts.

As a result, I can also allay the concerns of Nick Raynsford, MP for Greenwich, which you reported, by confirming that the university will be able to rehabilitate the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital and Devonport Nurses' Home.

Libby Purves's article, "Greenwich still in peril" (September 4), shows a misunderstanding of what the advisory group proposes. Since the proposed trust, not the university, will be responsible for ensuring that the historic monument does not live "from hand to mouth" [with] his boarded up or permanently under repair, scruffy inhabited... she need have little fear that this university would accept such a situation.

As Dame Jennifer indicates, discussions are taking place between the university and the National Maritime Museum to develop specialists in maritime studies which will run at the Royal Naval College. The university does not intend to "run a business-school campus on the site, and perform on a shoestring", as Libby Purves puts it.

The university's proposals have been thoroughly analysed by representatives of the Greenwich Advisory Group. I imagine the museum's proposals were given the same consideration.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN McWILLIAM,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
The University of Greenwich,
Southwood House,
Avery Hill Road, Eltham, SE9.
September 6.

Profit and loss on British inventions

From Mr Alan Smith

Sir, None of the letters you have published on British inventions (August 15, 21, 26; September 2, 6) has seen fit to mention the many projects since 1945 upon which support has been lavished.

The ACE computer, atomic and hydrogen bombs, the Blue Streak and Black Arrow rockets, the TSR2 strike aircraft, several varieties of nuclear reactor (including Magnox and the fast-breeder), the Chevaline missile delivery system, Polaris and Trident submarines, the Nimrod aircraft, Concorde — these are just a few better-known examples from a much longer list which could be compiled of expensive ventures to which, at government behest, vast resources of scarce talents and skills have been devoted.

The truth is that, far from being parsimonious in such matters, successive British governments have been far too prodigal in squandering our substance on the development of devices which nobody else wanted to buy. And the Treasury (and Parliament, to whom we look for protection from such profligacy) have been far too lax in their defence of the country's true interests.

But the fault does not lie with government alone, nor with the education system or the shortcomings of the professions. It lies in a collective national misconception which leads us to believe that because a thing is both brilliant and British it must, of necessity, succeed in world markets.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SMITH
(Head of Science and Technology Division, OECD, 1977-80),
63 Abbey House,
1a Abbey Road, NW8.
September 3.

From Dr Cedric Hassall, FRS

Sir, The recent correspondence on exploitation of ideas of British inventors has not done justice to one aspect — the personal motivation of inventors to produce commercial successes.

In the late 1970s legislation was introduced to provide financial rewards to inventors responsible for major commercial successes.

Even so, in the pharmaceutical industry which I know best — but it also applies in other high-tech industries — there are examples of inventors who have derived no specific financial reward for inventions producing gross sales of £100 million and more. Certainly, the inventor may sue his employer on the basis of the UK legislation but, in practice, few will wish to expose their companies in this way.

By contrast, I understand that where the British Technology Group (set up by government to convert British inventions into profitable ventures) works directly with the inventor, he/she normally receives 50 per cent of royalties.

In some countries such as Germany, the legislation relating to major inventions is more specific and provides that individual inventors named in controlling patents receive significant royalty payments that are based on sales.

Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC H. HASSALL,
(Member, Council of the British Technology Group, 1985-92),
2 Chestnut Close,
Westoning, Bedfordshire.
September 3.

Wales: see England

From Mrs Patrick Young

Sir, The Valleys may well weep at the illustration accompanying Simon Jenkins's article today, "Chapels in the valley of tears". Gwynedd Pit, where John Wesley preached, is in Cornwall.

Yours faithfully,
JENNY YOUNG,
3F Lansdowne Road, W11.
September 7.

Cards of identity

From Mrs K. T. Thomas

Sir, Suspicions about the abuse of identity cards (letters, August 20, 23, 30; September 4, 6) are nothing new.

In the short story *Lonely*, written in 1899, Chekhov writes: "Whenever Startsev tried to talk even with one of the liberal inhabitants of the town, for example about how humanity, thank goodness, was moving forwards, and how in time one would be able to dispense with identity cards and capital punishment, the inhabitants would cast him a sideways, suspicious glance and ask, 'That means that anyone can cut anyone else's throat on the street?'"

Yours faithfully,
K. T. THOMAS,
139 Booth Road, NW9.

From Mrs J. Birkbeck

Sir, I cannot understand all the hoopla over identity cards.

For the past 15 years I have carried, in England, a card issued by the US Air Force which bears a photograph, signature, eye colour, hair, date of birth, husband's full name, my social security number, and weight (I lied).

Yours,
JO BIRKBECK,
46 Pen Street.

Safety on holiday

From the Editor of Holiday Which?

Sir, Martin Brackenbury of the Federation of Tour Operators (letter, September 3) neatly sidesteps the crucial issues in the debate over holiday safety by attempting to criticise *Holiday Which?* research.

Holiday Which? believes that British holidaymakers have a right to expect tour operators to send them to safe hotels and that tour operators are legally responsible for the safety standards of the hotels they use. Yet our latest research exposed 38 out of 39 hotels inspected in Turkey and Gran Canaria which failed our safety inspections — and many even failed to comply with their own national safety standards.

We have been inspecting hotels for safety for nearly 20 years — far longer than tour operators. All the hotels recommended in *Holiday Which?* are visited and our experience has shown that most hoteliers are keen to act on our findings and improve their safety standards. It is worrying that the FTO does not appear to share the same constructive attitude — and, even with the economic muscle it wields, claims that tour operators are unable to secure improvements.

We have made every attempt to meet industry representatives to discuss the problems with their inspection programme, but the FTO have consistently declined to meet us. It is time that tour operators acknowledged their own responsibilities to British consumers.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA YATES
Editor, *Holiday Which?*,
2 Marylebone Road, NW1.
September 3.

Law Society reform

From Mr Kenneth Seakens

Sir, Andrew Lockley's arguments ("Vote for the baby, not the bathwater", *Law*, September 3) in favour of preserving the present status of the Law Society imply a nostalgic view of the society's influence which is at odds with reality.

No professional body can any longer effectively regulate and represent in the best interests of either consumer or professional. The present muddle satisfies no one, as is amply demonstrated by the myriad voices seeking independent regulation of all legal services.

Root and branch constitutional reform of the Law Society is long overdue and separation of functions is an obvious first step. Confidence needs to be restored for both the public and the profession — sooner rather than later.

Yours faithfully,
K. SEAKENS
(Member, Steering Committee,
The Solicitors Association),
18 Station Approach,
Virginia Water, Surrey.

Tail story

From Mr Bob Prescott

Sir, I am sure passengers appreciate the facts and figures given them on the bigger jet planes, such as distance to travel, height, speed, temperature outside, size of the aircraft. But I was rather alarmed recently, after being told we were flying at 500 mph, to read on the TV screen: "The tail of this aircraft is 52 feet above the ground."

We did reach Manchester safely.

Yours faithfully,
BOB PRESCOTT.

A testing time for five-year-olds

From Mr John Walker

Sir, It is excellent news that children are to be tested/assessed when entering school (reports, September 4), as we have been working towards this goal for some years. We have likened this assessment to the goods-inwards inspection process that is conducted by any sensible organisation. How can you initiate any process when you have not looked at the basis from which you start?

I wholeheartedly share the reservations as to the appropriateness of the proposed testing criteria expressed in your leading article of the same day, "8 for achievement". We see many children who are numerate and/or literate entering school only to be processed through the school system as if they were incapable of functioning other than at the standard level.

For instance, we know of one child (aged six) who was corrected for writing down random numbers. They were in fact all the prime numbers under 50, but this explanation was not met with any enthusiasm by the teacher. This implies that attitudes must also change.

I look forward to the application of this test with considerable interest as it affects the children of high intelligence, many under school age, with whom we deal.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WALKER
(Chairman),
Support Society for
Children of High Intelligence,
PO Box 4222, London SE22 8XC.
September 4.

From Mrs Sheila Lyndon

Sir, Parents are to be questioned by teachers about their children's ability before they start school. I am amazed that this is not done already. Are we to understand that professionals take on clients without knowing anything about them?

A financial adviser breaks the law if he breathes a word of advice to a client before thorough investigation of the client's needs and circumstances. It seems strange that a mass of protective legislation regulates the sale of a £20-a-month endowment policy, yet we are only just beginning to think

about "suitability" and "best advice" when it comes to education for our five-year-olds.

Yours faithfully,
S. LYDDON,
6a Station Parade,
Richmond, Surrey.
September 4.

From Mr T. J. King

Sir, Why stop at assessing the children's abilities in the three R's? Surely basic skills, such as tying shoelaces and attitudes towards others, are just as important at the earliest stage of school careers. They are a test of child-rearing practices.

Some parents who apply for school entry for their five-year-olds are already interviewed. Why not formalise this procedure and use it as an assessment of parents' child-rearing techniques? This would be a compulsory procedure and part of the child's early assessment. Parents would give answers to a standard questionnaire which would then be signed by parents, the interviewer and a witness, and held by the school.

Nothing would concentrate the minds of parents more, especially if schools had the right to delay, or even refuse, admission on the basis of this interview.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. KING (Headmaster,
The John Fisher School, 1981-92),
Whitegates, Balgents Lane,
Windsor, Surrey.
September 4.

From Ms Gillian Tweed

Sir, In Wandsworth tests are taken by children early in the autumn term of the school year in which they will become five years old. In effect this means that the majority of children are only four when they are tested, some being as young as four years and one month.

Surely it would therefore be more accurate to describe them as tests for four-year-olds.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN TWEED,
32 Longstaff Road,
Wandsworth, SW18.
September 4.

A traitor's courage

From Mr Alan R. V. Anderson

Sir, Your obituary (September 4) of Julian Amery, son of Leo Amery (1873-1955), contrasts him with his brother John, hanged for treason in 1945.

I recall a talk given at my school by the chaplain who had throughout attended John Amery at Wandsworth Prison.

He told us that, having met many brave men but none braver than John Amery, he had felt compelled to ask him, shortly before the execution, how he could be so brave.

Even after a lapse of almost half a century, I find myself moved by the reply — "because I am my father's son".

Yours faithfully,
A. R. V. ANDERSON,
Côtés de Rozel,
Rozel, Jersey, CI.
September 4.

Sport letters, page 35

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept

OBITUARIES

DAME JEAN LANCASTER

Commandant Dame Jean Lancaster, DBE, Director Women's Royal Naval Service 1961-64, died on August 29 aged 87. She was born on August 11, 1909.

Once the WRNS had been demobilised after the First World War, it was not until 1938 that the Admiralty, under the threat of a second war with Germany, reintroduced the service. By December 1939 there were more than 7,000 WRNS, their numbers steadily increasing until in 1944 their strength exceeded 74,000, serving the war effort in all parts of the globe.

Jean Davies, after an education at Merchant Taylors' School for Girls at Crosby in Lancashire and a job as the headmaster's secretary at the Merchant Taylors' boys' school in Liverpool, was an early member of this expansion. Joining up at the age of 30 in December 1939, she was soon promoted to probationary third officer and appointed to the staff of the Flag Officer Liverpool, where she dealt with the encoding and decoding of the vital message traffic controlling the campaign against the U-boats.

Clearly catching the selectors' eye, she was one of the first WRNS officers to qualify as a signals officer, taking in 1942 a course usually reserved for male officers.

Most of her subsequent wartime service continued to be in Liverpool in the operational headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief, Western Approaches, the legendary Sir Max Horton, during the height of the Battle of the Atlantic. This organisation played a central part in the eventual defeat of the U-boat, and subsequent historical analysis has emphasised the crucial role played by communications and cryptography.

However, Jean Davies' qualities of accuracy, intelligence and discretion, supported by what used to be known



as a "presentable" appearance, enabled her to play a small part in momentous events.

In August 1943 she was selected to join the distinguished team of service chiefs, staff officers and others totalling some two hundred that accompanied the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, to the Quebec conference with President Roosevelt, codenamed Quadrant. (This conference decided the strategic shape of

much of the rest of the war — the invasion of France in 1944 from both the South and North, the Mediterranean campaign and the command structure in South-East Asia.)

In later years Jean Davies frequently recalled how thrilled she was to be at sea in the liner *Queen Mary*, working watches in the cipher room as the preparations went ahead. She also never lost her sense of amazement at the relative luxury of wartime

Canadian and American lifestyles.

After the Quebec conference, she was flown to Washington to help the British mission with its consequent workload and heavy signal traffic. Returning to Britain with Churchill in the battleship *Renown*, she was always proud that she was actually established as a member of the ship's company, exceptional treatment for a woman in those days.

Shortly after her return to her 84-hour working week underground in "the dungeon" of the Liverpool headquarters, Jean Davies was again chosen to accompany Churchill's entourage in the *Renown*, this time to the Cairo and Tehran conferences of November and December 1943.

Cairo provided an opportunity for the Western Allies to review the progress of the war in all theatres and to prepare for a meeting with Stalin at Tehran — the first plenary meeting of the Big Three. Discussions at Tehran aligned Soviet and Anglo-American strategies in Europe and the Far East and, at least with the benefit of hindsight, revealed the first glimmerings of Soviet postwar aims.

Jean Davies recalled that the work was very interesting, but it was only on reading the histories subsequently that she appreciated all that was going on, including the nuances behind Churchill's 69th birthday party with Stalin and Roosevelt in the British Embassy, which she attended.

Promoted to first officer in 1943, she was appointed MBE in 1944 in recognition of her services to the summit conferences.

After the war she transferred to the Administrative Branch and was appointed to a variety of staff posts, principally in the personnel field. In 1958 she was promoted to Superintendent WRNS and placed in charge of all Fleet Air Arm WRNS personnel, being advanced to OBE.

Promoted Commandant in 1961 and appointed Director WRNS, she oversaw the work, careers and training of some 3,500 regular officers and ratings, earning a reputation among all who worked for her as a charming, kindly and considerate person. Appointed a DBE and retiring in 1964, she was recruited by British Oxygen as a personnel director.

She left the company after her marriage, in 1967, to Roy Lancaster, a barrister. He died in 1981.

GEORGE LEVY

George Levy, MBE, antiques dealer and heritage campaigner, died on September 1 aged 69. He was born on May 21, 1927.



A DISTINGUISHED dealer in antique furniture and a familiar figure at auction houses all over the country, George Levy was also a dedicated custodian of Britain's national heritage. Throughout his life he gave generously of his expertise and time to museums and galleries, working free-of-charge to help them to secure treasures for the nation. He was a fierce campaigner against admission charges to collections. In 1992 he was appointed MBE for his services as chairman of the Friends of the Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood.

George Joseph Levy was educated at Oundle but began his working career on the floor of a biscuit factory before going on to join the nascent British film industry. Perhaps he dreamt of becoming a second Hitchcock — he bore a passing resemblance to the great director — but he never rose higher than the level of clapper boy at Ealing Studios. His experiences on the periphery of the film world, however, instilled in him an abiding interest in the theatre and photography.

He joined the antique dealers Blairman's in 1950 and two years later married Wendy Blairman. Thus began a long association with the firm. In 1955 he was made a director and a decade later chairman. Levy built up a sympathetic relationship with the many museums and galleries with which he dealt. He would give freely of his time to act as adviser, particularly on the legal complexities of inheritance tax.

He was particularly helpful to the Iveagh Bequest at Kenwood, where he worked hand-in-hand with John Jacob, bidding across the Atlantic for pictures by Pannini (for Marble Hill) or Adam furniture (originally designed for Kenwood), works whose original provenance was unknown to the auctioneers. It was said that if the two men ever came into the saleroom together, another coup was in the offing. They usually worked discreetly apart.

Levy was president of the British Antique Dealers Association, 1974-76, and masterminded the Grosvenor House Antiques Fair in 1978-79. He was concerned with the Somerset House art treasures exhibition in 1979 and the Burlington House Fair from 1980 to 1982.

In 1978 he became chairman of the Friends of the Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood, in succession to the architect, Peter Clapham. Any fears that having a chairman in the trade would lead to divided loyalties were quickly dispelled by the devotion Levy showed to Kenwood, both politically and in the saleroom. He became adept at tilting at the windmills of the Greater London Council, whether the subject was the imposition of museum charges, or the closure of rooms through the shortage of staff.

This continued when Kenwood was transferred to English Heritage with the setting up of the London Historic Houses Liaison Group in 1985. He not only raised money for the museum through this

group, but dealt diplomatically with English Heritage, forging a bridge between the professional ethos of the museum and the rather more commercial attitudes of its administrative trustee.

The position he had built up was seen to great effect earlier this year when he won the battle for the retention of a curatorial presence at Kenwood, and yet successfully bid at Christie's on behalf of English Heritage for a pair of early 18th-century Kentian tables which had been originally made for Chiswick House.

Ebullient in conversation, Levy was always someone whom it was fun to be with. His deals were straight, and, although shrewd, he was a man of integrity and openness, who did much for museums and the true interest of the "heritage" — a term for which he held an old-fashioned contempt.

He leaves a widow, Wendy, three daughters, and a son, one of whom, Martin, works in the family business.

UZU EGONU

Uzo Egonu, Nigerian painter and printmaker, died on August 14 aged 64. He was born on December 25, 1931.

THE Nigerian Uzo Egonu was a painter and printmaker who powerfully integrated the traditions of African art with those of modern Western culture. Combining exuberant colour and clearly defined form, he used allegory and metaphor to explore with a profound lyricism the tragedy of his nation at the time of the Biafran War. He was acclaimed as one of Africa's finest artists.

Uzo Egonu was born in Ibo, the son of a colonial civil servant in the royal city of Onitsha in Eastern Nigeria but, as was customary among the more sophisticated Westernised sector of Nigerian society, he was sent to Britain to be educated at the age of 13. At a private school in Little Snoring, Norfolk, his artistic talent was nurtured, and he went on to enrol at the Camberwell School of Art and Design, where he studied painting and typography under L.J. Daniels and Sir Gilbert Spencer.

After graduation in 1951 he travelled in Europe, studying the work of classical and modern masters as well as collections of traditional African art. He visited the studios of Jacob Epstein and settled in Paris for a time, selling his watercolour sketches to earn a living. He also spent some time in Denmark, Finland and Italy before he returned to London and set up his studio there in 1959.

The early 1960s were crucial years for Egonu's career as he



developed his own distinctive artistic style, which drew on influences from his native land, and from the various countries in which he had been travelling. For a while his work seemed in some ways to echo the aesthetic of Britain's "kitchen sink" school of painters, though he was never concerned with its social realism and inclined instead towards genre and nostalgic imagery.

Egonu embarked upon a detailed study of the terracotta traditions of the ancient Nok culture of West Africa. Although his treatise on this subject was unpublished, his discovery of what he termed a "formalism" in the work was to influence his own art and lead him away from the academicism of his student training.

Egonu had met a wealthy Gambian who was his patron in the early 1960s. In 1964 he had his first solo show. Then, two years later, he was offered a show at the Duchess of St Albans' Upper Grosvenor Gallery.

While the exhibition included much of his early work, the

most powerful paintings were probably those inspired by the political situation in Nigeria which, after a 1966 coup, was in a state of violent turmoil and on the brink of the horrors of the Biafran War. Although Egonu had not lived in Nigeria for several years, reports of the massacre of thousands of his fellow Ibos affected him deeply, and his second show at the Upper Grosvenor Gallery was a benefit for the victims of the Biafran War.

During the early 1970s Egonu began to experiment with printmaking, and it was

in this medium that he was to go on to do some of his most effective work. Sadly, however, the exposure to acid fumes in the distribution division of Kodak in 1971. Five years later he returned to academic life, becoming a research fellow at the transport studies group, at what was then called the Polytechnic of Central London. Here he soon developed extensive research, teaching and consultancy interests in both freight transport and logistics.

In 1990 Cooper moved to Cranfield, where he led a

PROFESSOR JAMES COOPER

Professor James Cooper, Director of the Cranfield Centre for Logistics and Transportation, died from cancer on August 7 aged 48. He was born on September 6, 1947.



A DISTINGUISHED researcher and teacher, Professor James Cooper made a major contribution to the study of freight transport. He undertook pioneering research in the emerging field of logistics management which, at a time when concern about traffic growth and its detrimental effects is mounting, was invaluable. As Director of the Centre for Logistics and Transportation at Cranfield's School of Management, he headed what is widely regarded as one of the world's main centres for research in logistics.

James Charles Cooper's involvement in his field of study began when, after graduating in economics from Nottingham University, he took a job in the distribution division of Kodak in 1971. Five years later he returned to academic life, becoming a research fellow at the transport studies group, at what was then called the Polytechnic of Central London. Here he soon developed extensive research, teaching and consultancy interests in both freight transport and logistics.

In 1990 Cooper moved to Cranfield, where he led a

number of important studies for both companies and governments and participated in the DRIVE (Dedicated Road Infrastructure for Vehicle Safety in Europe) programmes of the European Community. His studies of road freight deregulation and the restructuring of companies' logistics operations within the European single market, commanded wide interest among academics, industrialists and public policy-makers.

He led the Cranfield team on a joint programme with Andersen Consulting which resulted in the influential study, *Reconfiguring European Logistics Systems*. Thanks to the extensive network of contacts he maintained with transport and logistics specialists around the

world, he was able to bring an international perspective to the study of freight transport and to disseminate the results of British research in this field to foreign audiences.

Cooper's academic research was always of practical relevance. He was the UK representative on the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) expert group on advanced logistics and communications.

He was also a specialist adviser to the European Committee of the House of Lords and to a range of professional organisations. He recognised the importance of linking a strong professional institute to the worlds of education and research and was a sought-after conference speaker and university lecturer.

Cooper also published extensively, through journals, research reports and books as well as in the press. Two of his papers, *Dedicated Contract Distribution: An Assessment of the UK Market Place* and *The Paradox of Logistics in Europe*, received best paper awards from leading journals. He was the winner of the Henry Spurrer Award from the Chartered Institute of Transport in 1991. One of his last achievements was to found a new international journal dedicated to the study of transport and logistics.

He is survived by his wife and a son and daughter.

Four weddings, a priory and a hospital

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

HUGH GRANT was probably too busy at the final nuptial in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* to notice the church in which it was filmed. A London University student has now shown that the architecture of St Bartholomew-the-Great in Smithfield, London, is considerably more complex than a casual glance would suggest.

The surviving church is only the eastern end of the great Augustinian monastic priory, closed in 1539. The associated hospital, founded in 1123, has survived and the remains of the church were converted to parochial use by 1559.

Most of the nave and cloister were demolished but enough remained for Maybel-Gormley to show how an

early dormitory probably incorporated the first chapter house, before a grander structure was erected in the 13th century. "This was achieved through a two-week building survey which paid particular attention to subtle but significant changes in building alignments," she says in *London Archaeologist*.

Stone by stone elevations of three of the eight surviving bays of the eastern range of the cloister, and a meticulous plan, showed numerous alterations over the centuries. Older arches had been truncated or partly blocked and walls refaced and brought forward. The earliest phase consisted of a dormer or sleeping hall, the remains of which were largely demolished in 1870. It was

apparently entered by a doorway in the third bay from the north and Ms Gormley suggests that the first two bays served as the chapter house, where the priory's governing body met in the 12th century.

The dormer was one of several free-standing buildings grouped around the open space of the cloister garth but a covered walk around it, forming a traditional cloister, was not constructed until the 13th century, decades later than hitherto accepted, Ms Gormley claims. At the same time, a separate chapter house was built over the previous site, extending further east.

The line of the chapter house wall differed from that of its 15th century successor and little of it remains, but a

stone base which had formerly supported a cluster of three columns survives. This allowed Ms Gormley to estimate the dimensions for the vanished eastern cloister walk, with eight bays each measuring some 4.2 metres (13ft 7in) wide. A new frontage was built on to the chapter house a century or so later, cutting into the old dormitory block doorway.

The irregularity of St Bartholomew's cloister suggests that it was a formalisation of disparate earlier freestanding buildings: this may be a useful pointer to the earlier history of other irregularly planned cloisters, such as that at Westminster Abbey.

Source: *London Archaeologist* Vol 8, No 1, 18-24.

THE GROWTH OF BETTING. POOR WOMEN AND HORSE RACING.

Information as to the increase of betting and gambling and the cause of it is contained in a report drawn up by the Social and Industrial Commission of the National Assembly of the Church of England (Church House, Westminster, Ed.). It gives the substance of replies to a questionnaire sent out to 100 individuals and organisations in England and Wales.

In the inquiry as to causes comparatively few replies suggested the desire to increase income or the effect of poor housing conditions, but 37 replies cited the increased facilities for betting and gambling, and 27 replies suggested the craving for excitement as the main cause. Other causes alleged were sweepstakes on racing and football in offices, factories, workshops, and public houses; impatience with a "humdrum" existence; the amount of money at the disposal of the masses and the desire to get

ON THIS DAY

September 9, 1927

More women than before were indulging in gambling, not always for financial gain but from a craving for excitement. "In many poor streets every woman buys the midday racing edition."

something for nothing; the ample spare time of men; the increase of schemes for collecting money for charitable objects by competitions and ballots; lack of control on the part of parents; increased income during the war and the want of a higher aim in life. A notable increase in betting and gambling since the war was mentioned in 65 replies, and as to the extent to which they are indulged in by women, 28 replied to a very great extent, a similar number replied "to a great extent," and 17 "to a small extent."

It was added by one correspondent that in many streets "75 per cent of the women bet" and by another that "in many poor streets every woman buys the midday racing edition."

Horse racing was given as the principal form of gambling in 77 of the replies. Football came second, and then followed cards, dice, crown and anchor, pitch and toss, sweepstakes, greyhound coursing, pigeon flying, billiards, boat races, and marbles. As to the methods used by those carrying on the betting business, the following is given as the gist of the replies: — "Street betting is carried on by men and women standing in places known to their clients to take bets. Bookmakers usually employ agents for this purpose. Men are posted at vantage points in relays to watch for the police. Touts wait at exits of large factories to catch employees. Tradesmen, small shopkeepers, and hawkers receive bets. Racing and football sweeps are organised in many large places of employment. Books of football coupons are distributed by agents."

NEWS

Runcie: Prince gave up on Church

The Prince of Wales is "disenchanted" with the Church of England and had "given up" on it more than a decade ago, according to the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Runcie.

The Prince's views on the Church were inconsistent and he did not take it very seriously, Lord Runcie told his biographer Humphrey Carpenter. "It would help if he loved the Church of England a bit more." Pages 1, 16, 17

Killer of Briton 'behaved like a robot'

The distraught girlfriend of a British tourist beaten to death by two men near Bondi Beach in Sydney, said one of his attackers behaved like a robot. "His eyes were glazed and he was robotic," Connie Casey told a press conference, the day after Brian Hagland, 28, died from head injuries. Page 1

No-strike plan

Radical plans to prevent a Labour government being defeated by a wave of public sector pay strikes are to be proposed by the Labour leadership. Page 1

Check on tabloids

Cheque-book journalism and the payment of huge sums by the media to witnesses in trials would be outlawed under draft proposals. Page 1

Gang murder

A teenager was beaten to death after being chased through a housing estate by about 20 youths and girls near Glasgow. Page 1

Drama over Archers

William Smethurst, who edited *The Archers* radio series for 11 years to 1986, accused Vanessa Whitburn, his successor, of having turned the erstwhile "everyday story of country folk" into "a load of feminist tripe". Page 3

Success story

A 35-year-old British businessman based in California, who was a Cambridge undergraduate, has pledged £1 million to his alma mater to help to establish its mathematics department as the world leader. Page 4

Perverted art

Sadomasochistic photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe, denounced in America as demonic, are to be shown in London by the Hayward Gallery. Page 5

Bat makers hit for a six

The crack of leather on willow echoing around the village green is under threat because of new rules designed to control the felling of forests. Traditional cricket-bat manufacturers, who have been using the willow since before the days of W.G. Grace, now face a shortage of the native wood and are talking about turning to alternative methods. Page 9

Police Crimenet

A computer system that can solve crimes and tell detectives who they should arrest or question will be tested by police in four forces this autumn. Page 7

Beckett's insight

Previously unseen diaries of Samuel Beckett during his stay in prewar Germany reveal his disillusion for Hitler. Page 8

Setback for Clinton

The White House is suffering fresh embarrassment after congressional Republicans said they will subpoena Dick Morris, President Clinton's disgraced political guru. Page 10

Election countdown

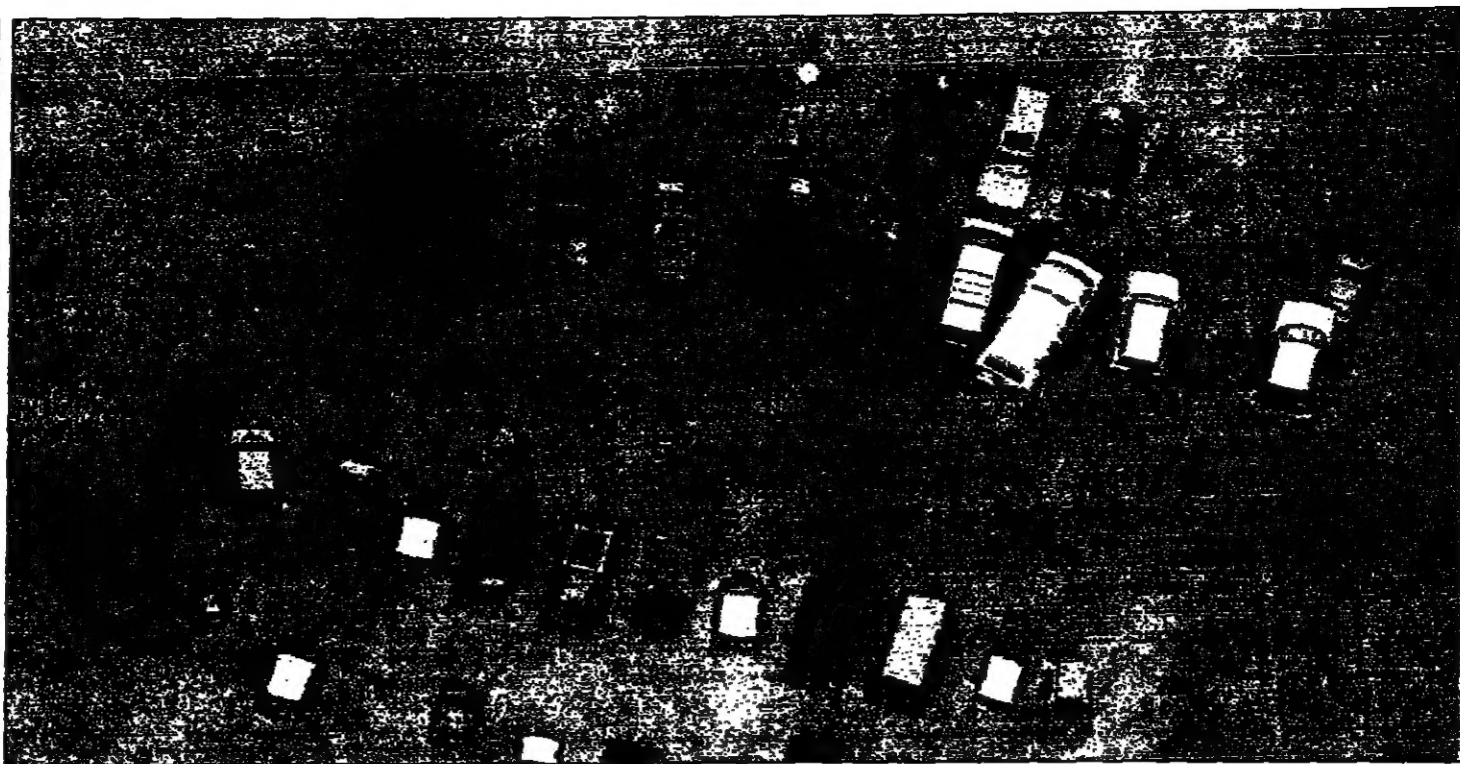
The US elections will take place in just over eight weeks' time. With both the Republican and Democratic conventions now over, their campaigns will be at full throttle. Page 11

Kurdish onslaught

A Kurdish faction, ousted from Arbil by Iraqi troops, lost control of two more key towns in heavy fighting. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan claimed Iraqi forces were back in action. Page 13

Pol Pot isolated

Khmer Rouge leader Ieng Sary will today announce peace terms reached with Phnom Penh. His defection opens the final chapter in the history of Pol Pot's brutal movement. Page 14



More than 30 vehicles lie submerged in water after Hurricane Fran caused severe flooding in parts of North Carolina. Story, page 10

BUSINESS

Morgan Grenfell: Deutsche Bank is to seek the resignation of five or more top managers at the City investment firm once an investigation into a rogue fund manager is completed. Page 48

Stock inquiry: The London Stock Exchange is investigating two insider dealing rings which it believes are operating from an offshore base. Page 48

Housing boom: London's boroughs are being urged to convert acres of empty offices into flats and houses to meet expected demand for accommodation. Page 48

Foreign interest: Britain has fallen from first to ninth in a list of countries where overseas companies are planning to build offices or factories. Page 48

FEATURES

Royal rift: Day two of the exclusive serialisation of the controversial new biography of Lord Runcie reveals that the Archbishop knew about the relationship between Camilla Parker Bowles and the Prince of Wales, and describes his tense relationship with Baroness Margaret Thatcher. Pages 16, 17

MIND AND MATTER

Moral maize: A genetically engineered maize crop that is pest resistant could be damaging to humans and the environment, reports Nigel Hawkes. Page 15

Fact or fiction: An academic challenges the widely held belief that Britain's economic decline can be traced to a neglect of the sciences. Science Briefing. Page 15

ARTS

Screen violence: Ben Elton's new novel *Popcorn*, a satire of the violence in Hollywood, is already headed for the stage in a production at the Nottingham Playhouse. But is Hollywood really as bad as Elton sees it? Page 18

Beautiful objects: With the British Museum's magnificent *Mysteries of Ancient China* show opening this week, *The Times* begins a daily series on the show. Page 18

First time: Valery Gergiev made his Prom debut when he brought the Rotterdam Philharmonic for two programmes. Page 18

Lost talent: Stewart Parker's play, *Pentecost*, now on at the Donmar in London, confirms that Parker, who died in 1988, was a genuine talent. Page 19

SPORT

Motor racing: Damon Hill, who was aiming to secure the championship, crashed out of the Italian Grand Prix on the sixth lap in Monza. Michael Schumacher won. Pages 25, 27

Football: Newly-promoted Sunderland stuttered to another goalless draw when they shared points with West Ham United. Pages 28-31

Boxing: Mike Tyson needs to meet a substantial opponent if he is to restore his reputation as world champion after a bizarre victory in Las Vegas. Page 27

Cricket: There was a feeling of being shortchanged as Lancashire completed a double by defeating Essex in a remarkable final at Lord's. Page 33

Golf: Colin Montgomerie scored an eight-under-par 63 to win the European Masters at Crans-sur-Sierre by four shots from fellow Scot Sam Torrance. Page 26

Rugby union: Chris Sheasby was the inspiration behind Wasps' 36-21 victory over Saracens in their north London derby. Pages 36, 37

Racing: Bianca Nera captured the first prize in the Moylagh Stud Stakes at the Curragh. Page 39

LOTTERY NUMBERS

5, 13, 15, 18, 32, 44. Bonus: 41. Five win £1,626,411; 35 win £71,490 for five numbers and the bonus ball; 1,679 win £931 for five numbers; 88,862 win £38 for four numbers; and 1,482,834 win £10

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Ponder the reckless mentality of young men who take cars for the fun of it: *X Cars* (BBC1, 8.30pm) **Review:** Matthew Bond was unprepared for Hywel Bennet in *Harpur and Iles*. Page 41

OPINION

Cook and bull

In the Shadow Foreign Secretary's eyes, the redistribution of power towards Brussels is fine as long as the power is used along good socialist lines. In bygone days this used to be known as socialism by the back door. Page 21

Battle for America

President Clinton enters the final phase of his re-election campaign as the clear favourite to hold his job. But the consequences of this November's contests could be profound. Page 21

Rules of asylum

Michael Howard is to broaden the present law of conspiracy to include those who plot terrorism overseas. The aim is to ensure that terrorists in exile do not use Britain as a base. Page 21

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

Riddell's first law of elections is that the dominant issue of a Parliament is almost always something that was not properly discussed. Page 20

MATTHEW PARRIS

I am always late. My habit is to fill a day with undertakings, then squeeze in some extra ones. So what to do now? Page 20

OBITUARIES

Dame Jean Lancaster: Director, Women's Royal Naval Service; George Levy, art dealer; Um Egonu, Nigerian artist. Page 23

LETTERS

Royal Naval College: British inventions. Page 21

THE PAPERS

There are reports that the CIA had a plot to assassinate Saddam Hussein, using Kurdistan as its base, and that this is one of the reasons behind Saddam's assault on Arbil. Even if the Americans manage to liquidate him one of these days, in all probability he would be succeeded in Baghdad by a clone, a kind of Saddam Mark Two. — *La Repubblica*



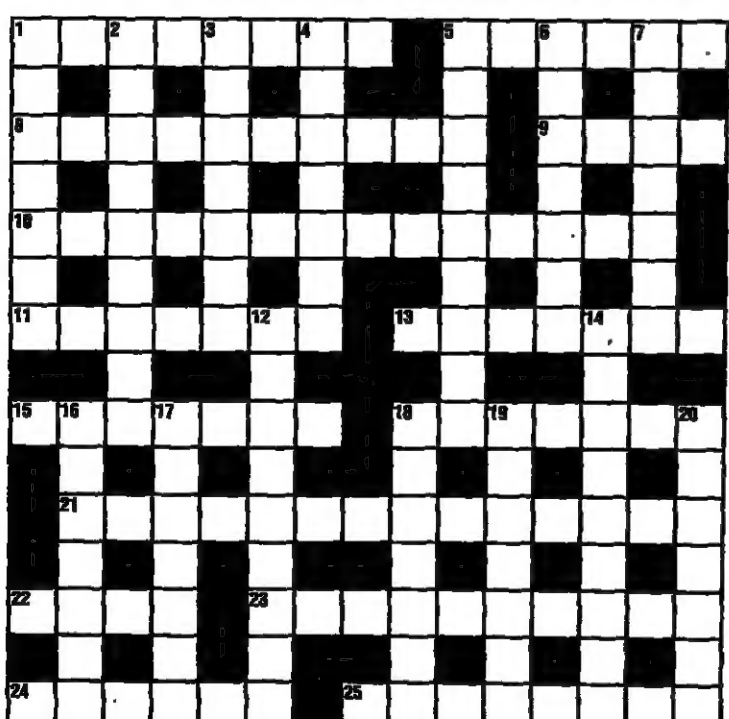
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

ART
Richard Cork reviews the *Mysteries of Ancient China* exhibition at the British Museum

LAW
Children who kill: previewing a conference on the law and young offenders

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,268



- ACROSS**
- Assistant editor given pamphlet to take away (8).
 - Son of corpulent build, short and thick (6).
 - He tries to stop gentlemen running on the beach (10).
 - Troll finally escorted back to wooded hollow (4).
 - Deserted radicals defeated in a game (4,2,3,5).
 - Be prepared to act for champion? (5,2).
 - Disregarded point I blush about (7).
 - Screen the French put round an upper room (7).
 - Like mail with labels put on flight out East (7).
 - Scholars may take this part of meal after port (8,6).
 - In part she ranks as queen of the gods (4).
- DOWN**
- It travels freely by routes, without lines (7,3).
 - American conductor's songs for the audience (6).
 - King and Queen taking in university's magnificence (8).
 - Fellow initially indisposed to supply grass-cutters (7).
 - Jollification for the enjoyment of runners, perhaps (9).
 - Secured again, run in, and taken back to court (7).
 - Polished ring thrown in abruptly (7).
 - Incidental information is brought up with great pleasure (9).
 - Experience governed by vitality (7).
 - Left-wing nonsense that's written about Lenin's origin (7).
 - Supporter sheltering Tyler in a remote place (9).
 - Agent with farming land apt for restoration (9).
 - Severe wind from south and east (7).
 - Vessel built with Asian capital, mostly, inside Thailand's borders (7).
 - Student of the sun receiving high honour (7).
 - A gap one can make at the highest point (7).
 - Assistant in theatre who takes care of wounds? (7).

ABERLOUP

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,267 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberloup single highland malt whisky.

TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest report by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London	7-10
South East	7-10
South West	7-10
West Midlands	7-10
East Midlands	7-10
North East	7-10
North West	7-10
Yorkshire	7-10
East of England	7-10
West of England	7-10
Wales	7-10
Scotland	7-10
Ireland	7-10

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Route	Information
A1	2-10
A2	2-10
A3	2-10
A4	2-10
A5	2-10
A6	2-10
A7	2-10
A8	2-10
A9	2-10
A10	2-10

HOURS OF TRAVEL

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Route	Hours of Travel
A1	2-10
A2	2-10
A3	2-10
A4	2-10
A5	2-10
A6	2-10
A7	2-10
A8	2-10
A9	2-10
A10	2-10

FLIGHT SAVERS

LONDON TO ROTTERDAM
from £59 return

LONDON TO HAMBURG
from £123 return

LONDON TO COPENHAGEN
from £99 return

FORECAST

General: Most of England and Wales will be dry with bright or sunny spells, the best of which will be in the west. Eastern coastal counties may see a light shower or patch of drizzle.

Scotland and Northern Ireland: Should be mostly dry with sunny spells, prolonged in Northern Ireland after overnight mist has dispersed. Later on, cloud will thicken in the far north, perhaps with some drizzle.

London, Cent S, NW, Cent N England, Midlands, N Wales, Wales, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Dry with bright or sunny spells. Wind northerly moderate to fresh. Max 18C to 19C (64F to 66F).

SE England, E Anglia: Rather cloudy at times with isolated showers. Wind northerly fresh. Max 17C to 18C (63F to 64F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Ireland: Dry with sunny periods, once any early mist has dispersed. Wind north to north-easterly moderate to fresh. Max 18C to 19C (64F to 66F).

Edinburgh & Dundee, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NW Scotland: Mainly dry. Bright or sunny spells. Wind moderate north or north-westerly. Max 16C to 18C (61F to 64F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, perhaps drizzle later. Wind north-westerly fresh locally strong. Max 13C to 15C (55F to 59F).

Outlook: Most parts of the country staying dry with bright or sunny spells.

AFTERNOON FORECAST

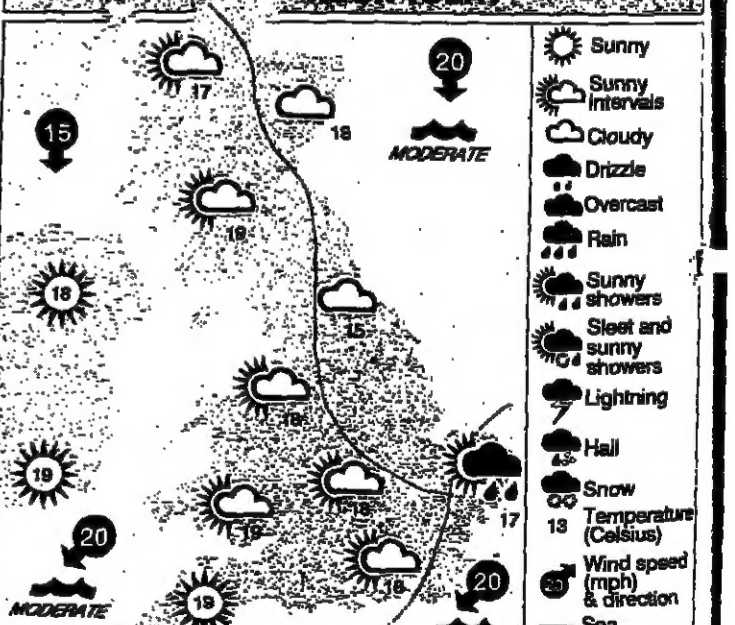
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=drizzle showers; f=fog; h=hazy; g=gale; h=hail; i=ice; m=moderate; n=night; r=rain; s=sunny; t=thunder; w=wind; x=other.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0

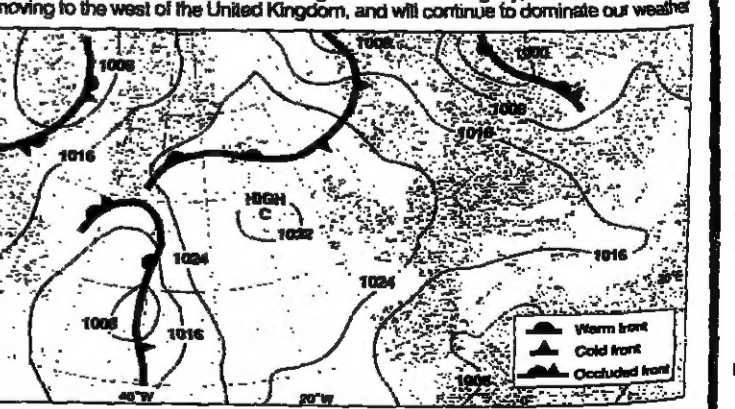
ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Madrid	24	15	10	0
Madrid	24	15	10	0
Madrid	24	15	10	0
Madrid	24	15	10	0
Madrid	24	15	10	0
Madrid	24	15	10	0
Madrid	24	15	10	0
Madrid	24	15	10	0
Madrid	24	15	10	0
Madrid	24	15	10	0

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high C will decline slightly, but will remain slow-moving to the west of the United Kingdom, and will continue to dominate our weather.



HIGH TIDES

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0
London	10.7	10	10	0

Temperatures at midday local time on Saturday. X = not available.

Total number of lives saved so far this year: 474

Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 2,534

Cost to RNLI per day: £173,000

Cost to taxpayer: £0

To make a donation, telephone: 0800 543210

Lifeboats
Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Reg. Charity No. 209603